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Saipan has a new batch of anti-littering police. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 50

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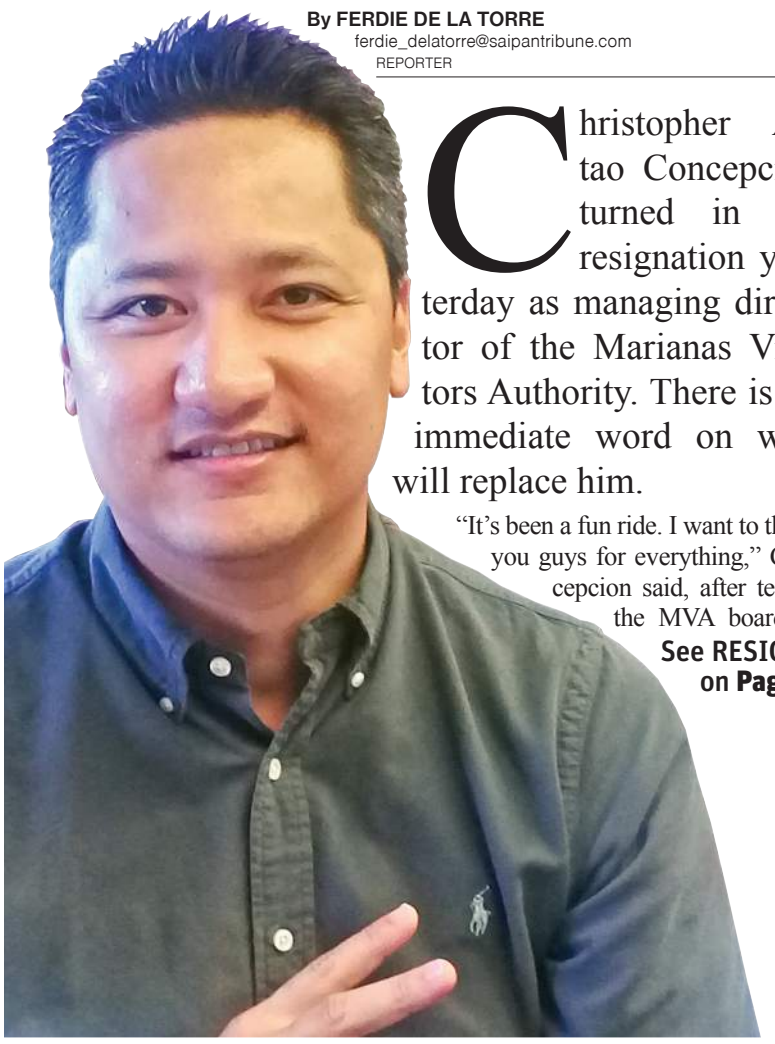
MVA's Concepcion resigns

» MVA chief cited for many accomplishments



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Christopher Attao Concepcion turned in his resignation yesterday as managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. There is no immediate word on who will replace him.

"It's been a fun ride. I want to thank you guys for everything," Concepcion said, after telling the MVA board of

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Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion, third from left in the back, joins MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, fifth from left in front, and other board members in a group photo outside MVA office in San Jose/Oleai yesterday. Concepcion announced his resignation during the board meeting. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'MVA's share of hotel tax owed since Dec.'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Christopher Concepcion is concerned that the Marianas Visitors Authority has not been receiving its share of the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax since last December.

Concepcion, the MVA's managing director, reported to the MVA board in a meeting yesterday that the agency is short by $2.5 million, which the Department of Finance actually owes MVA in hotel occupancy tax.

The last allotment the MVA received was in November, he said. Even then, it was just a partial amount.

"So we are very concerned," he said. "We are in communication daily with the Department of Finance on this."

He said a lot of changes are happening at Finance right now, with "a new guy in

See TAX on Page 4

Man stranded here following dismissal of case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was flown in from Tinian to answer criminal charges filed against him is now stranded on Saipan following the dismissal of his criminal charges.

Gener C. Abaga, 50, remains stranded on Saipan following the dismissal of his case because he allegedly has no money to pay for a plane ticket back to Tinian and has no friends or family on Saipan.

Abaga was flown in from Tinian for a bail hearing last Monday following his arrest last March 10. Abaga was charged with assault and battery.

Abaga's case was dismissed without prejudice, meaning it can be refiled, because there was no signed document stating that the affidavit charging Abaga was reviewed by a judge and that probable cause exists to charge him.

During the bail hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge

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Airlines in Ethiopia, China, Indonesia and elsewhere grounded the Boeing 737 Max 8 jetliner

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NATION
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is saying President Donald Trump is "just not worth" impeaching.

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LIFE & STYLE
Mixed martial artist and boxer Conor McGregor has been arrested in South Florida.

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Local

Reduced allotments for the rest of the fiscal year

The Torres administration will be reducing the allotments of all agencies, branches, departments, offices, and other instrumentalities of the CNMI government due to a projected shortfall in revenues this fiscal year.

The projected shortfall in revenues this year is estimated at 4.7 percent.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, acting Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig advised him of a projected reduction in the estimated general fund resources for the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2019, blamed mostly on Super Typhoon Yutu for gravely affecting the CNMI's revenue sources.

"The [DoF] reported a projected shortfall in revenue by 4.7 percent," said Torres in a separate letter to House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota). "It is evident that the recent presidentially declared disaster caused by Super Typhoon Yutu was a major contributing factor in the decline in projected revenue.

"It brought our tourism industry to a standstill for more than two months within the first quarter, causing a severe disruption in revenues, and affected many of our local businesses and residents accordingly."

Finance originally estimated incoming resources at $258,139,107 for fiscal year 2019. Under new projections, this would go down to $246,091,107 after the total adjustment of $12,048,000 is deducted.

The adjustments include business gross revenue ($3,649,000); Northern Marianas Territorial Income Tax ($1,841,000); licenses, fees, and service charge ($1,500,000); excise taxes ($2,552,000); and other revenues ($1,000,000).

Torres said the projected reduction in the CNMI's revenue resources require an adjustment in the budget authority for the current fiscal year's balance. "The budgetary gross under Public Law 20-67 must be adjusted downward by $12,048,000, which must be absorbed by the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year."

"Therefore…I will immediately commence a proportionate reduction in the allotment authority of all branches, their offices, departments, agencies, and relevant instrumentalities, which are subject to appropriation."

He and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are hoping that things would improve in the coming months but, as a precautionary measure, will "be taking a proactive approach" on the current financial situation of the CNMI.

"While Lt. Gov. Palacios and I remain optimistic that fiscal conditions will improve in the following months, it will be prudent and financially responsible to implement cost-containment measures to non-federally funded programs and agencies until revenue collections meet targeted goals," said Torres.

"We recommend the branches take proactive steps in responding to the current fiscal conditions. We understand that this reduction will have an impact on public operations and services, but we must remain proactive in our approach by realigning government spending with available resources."

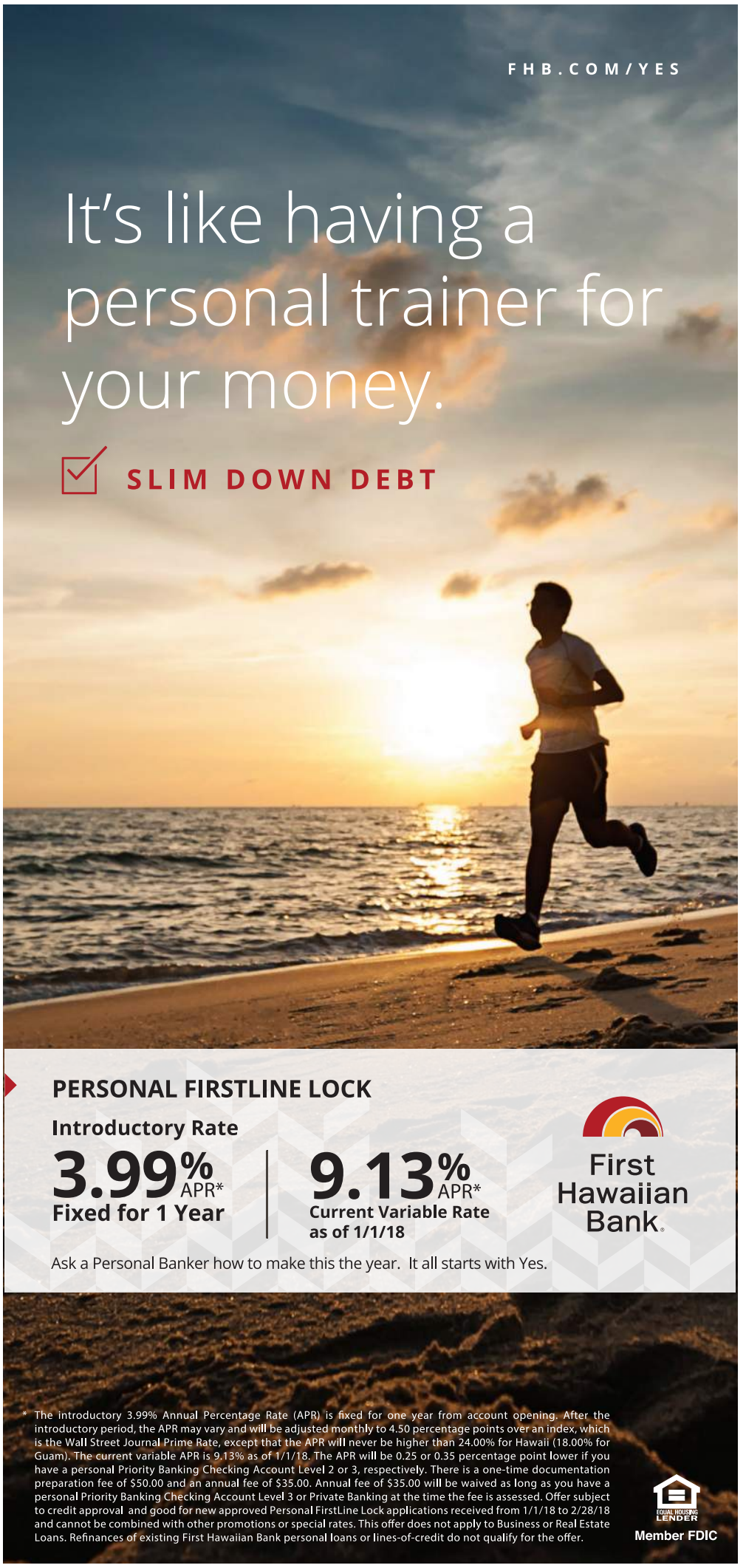
Torres said that they had already taken steps to cut costs but all branches of government must work to examine their daily operations and activities, and identify the areas that can be cut.

He attributed the CNMI's fast recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu to the use of local resources to pay for the upfront costs of the storms' impact. "Our proactive approach in responding at a time of great need has led to a more rapid recovery. This has saved lived and provided much needed relief to our residents."

Torres asked for everyone's cooperation to weather the current financial situation.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said they are ready to work with the administration in coming up with a balanced and working budget for the government for fiscal year 2020.

"I applaud the Executive Branch for taking the initiative to identify non-critical areas for reductions in order to meet this shortfall. We look forward to working with the Executive Branch to identify areas of cost-containment and revenue opportunities. Speaker Attao has tasked the [committee] to work with the [administration] to identify areas of cost-containment and revenue opportunities." ***(Jon Perez)***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Rotary Club welcomes 3 members

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan inducted three new members into its ranks yesterday during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

The new members are Northern Marianas Trades Institute instructor Wendell Posadas, Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan food and beverage director Das Krishnan.

Their sponsors, NMTI president Agnes McPhetres for Posadas; Marianas Visitors Authority product development manager Tatiana Babauta for Aquino; and David Sablan Sr. for Krishnan, affixed a club-specific pin on the new members' lapels to recognize them as official members of the club.

In a speech at the ceremony, Rotary club of Saipan president Greg Borja said, "when you join the Rotary, you join something bigger than yourselves."

He encouraged the new members to learn all they can about the Rotary Club "and to strengthen your leadership and communication skills by actively participating in the activities of the club, including attending weekly meetings, social events, service projects, and the Las Vegas Night,"

"Through your membership, you will enjoy a network of business leaders and professionals and we commit ourselves to do our part in making you feel welcome to our club," he added.

Krishnan, who first arrived in the CNMI in 1998, had been in the hotel industry for at least 40 years.

"I am very happy to be honored today," Krishnan said as he thanked Sablan in a short message.

"There are three reason why I wanted to join the club," said Aquino in a short message. "The first is the Rotary Club is the oldest and most prestigious organization when it comes to service. Secondly, I work for the mayor's office and we do a lot of service programs and [more] for the community, and I want to continue to network with our fellow [members in the] private sectors," she said.

Aquino's third reason for joining the club was for her own personal growth and development.

Posadas noted that he was a previous member of the club. "Once you are a Rotarian, you are always a Rotarian. I never stopped, I just paused," he said.

Posadas noted his active involvement in relief operations after Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I wanted to help the community, mostly those who needed help," he said. "I want to fulfill my duties and responsibilities as a Rotarian."

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On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While current supplies last. 2019 CX-5 Sport total price is $23,995. Financed at 4.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $361.37 or $166 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,682.20.

Emon Lodge rebuilds As Lito bus shelter

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 cut the ribbon yesterday to officially introduce a new cement bus stop in the As Lito area near Dandan.

The event also signified the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179's adoption of the former wood and tin bus stop along the As Lito Road near Dandan, renovating it into a sturdier concrete bus stop.

"I was able to discuss with Rep. Roman C. Benavente (R-Saipan) our plans to renovate the bus stop," said Bong Malasarte in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "I told him we had to raise some funds first."

It did not take the group too long to renovate the bus stop since the organization, according to Malasarte, moved some funds around to prioritize the project.

He added that other projects that the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 is pursuing is the Koblerville Gymnasium repairs. That has been halted, however, since Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018.

"We will restart renovation this Sunday," he said.

The donation to repair the bus stop, according to Malasarte, was all donated by members of the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179.

"Each and every brother contributed funds to repair the bus stop," he noted, adding that it took the organization about $10,000 to fully renovate the bus stop, which was completely destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu. "Only the flooring was left, so it was like a construction project; the bus stop is totally new," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, along with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio, and Public School System associate commissioner for curriculum and instructional services Jackie Quitugua attended the ribbon cutting.

"On behalf of the people of the CNMI, the parents, and the students, we thank you for your contribution and partnership, especially for this bus stop," Torres said.

"I thank the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 for this bus shelter you have built," Apatang said. "Thank you for your leadership and the organization for an outstanding job on the shelter."

"I am sure PSS students would be happy," he added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres shares a laugh with Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new bus shelter that was rebuilt by the Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179. ERWIN ENCINARES

RESIGNS

From Page 1

directors about his resignation at the latter part of the meeting.

Concepcion is required to provide a 30-day notice; his resignation will be effective April 12.

He became the managing director in April 2016.

After announcing his resignation, Concepcion then asked the board to allow him to discuss more details about his decision in an executive session—essentially a closed-door meeting that is off-limits to the media and the public.

When the meeting resumed after the brief executive session, MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce announced that they were shocked but have reluctantly accepted Concepcion's resignation.

Aldan-Pierce and the other board members—Jerry Tan, Cinta Kaipat, Gloria Cavanagh, Chris Nelson, Agida Quitugua, Nick Nishikawa, and Warren Villagomez—along with some MVA staff gave Concepcion a standing ovation.

Concepcion told the board that he leaves the agency with great sadness but "I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the MVA and the people of the Commonwealth the past three years."

Concepcion said that he and his team managed to achieve major milestones during his tenure, chief of which when they finally secured direct air service from Japan via Skymark Airlines.

He said Skymark is the first Japanese carrier to operate flights to Saipan since Japan Airlines withdrew from the market in 2005.

"It was through my personal relations with airline industry executives in Japan, and direct negotiations with Skymark executives, that we were finally able to convince Japan's third largest carrier to launch flights to the CNMI," he said.

Concepcion reiterated his appreciation to the board and especially to the MVA's "hard-working team."

"It's been a fun ride. But I think it's time. I'm tired," he added.

The smiling Concepcion said everybody has noticed that he has grown more gray hairs with his job and that he agrees with the observation.

"But it's been well worth it. I just want to thank you guys for everything," he said.

Aldan-Pierce said they're flabbergasted by Concepcion's decision, but basically understand him, and that the board has always been supportive of his new ideas.

"We thank you, wholeheartedly. We wish you good luck," Aldan-Pierce said. "We thank you for your professionalism."

In a later interview, Concepcion still sees a lot of improvements that could be made at MVA, a lot of new things, and even enhanced projects and events.

"I think, overall, we're in good hands. I'm not sure who my successor will be. But whoever it is, I offer my full support and assistance to make sure that things will be smooth during the transition," he said.

Concepcion did not disclose whether he is getting a new government position or if he is going back to the private sector. He used to be with Delta Air Lines.

With the 30-day notice, Concepcion will still be with the MVA until mid-April.

Aldan-Pierce said Concepcion will still be around to assist with the transition to the new MVA chief and to help at the agency because they have so many pending projects and that they need his expertise.

She said Concepcion is resigning because he needs to move forward with his life and that they discussed it during the executive session.

"When you work for MVA, it's a very demanding job," she said, adding that it's a 24-7 job.

When asked about who will succeed Concepcion, Aldan-Pierce said the replacement is the purview of the board of directors. "As names come up, the board will sit down and discuss," she said.

Aldan-Pierce described Concepcion as a "very wonderful managing director" who has moved forward different programs and come up with so many new ones.

She said the thing that she likes about Concepcion is he came from the private sector, where he has earned the respect of the tourism industry.

"He has been the consummate professional for the board, on behalf of the authority," she said, adding that the board never had to worry about what's going on at the MVA ever day, because they had full confidence in Concepcion's ability.

TAX

From Page 1

charge," referring to acting Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Concepcion said they have been in contact with Finance and that they are fully aware that what MVA does is critical to the entire CNMI economy.

He said his team is pushing on Finance's side to prioritize the MVA's allotment. For now, MVA is going to be fine, but Concepcion said this "cannot stay much longer" if there no allotment.

Right now, the MVA is trying to make budget cuts, he said, and he is going to propose that to the board.

In the meantime, Concepcion promised to call the acting Finance secretary, while MVA chief accountant Joanne Paraiso will call Finance's treasurer—a one-two approach that he hopes will work.

In a separate interview, Concepcion said the last payment they got from Finance was last November and that they received nothing for December, January, and February.

He said the November payment was not even full as it was only partial.

The MVA's average share of the hotel occupancy tax is $1.1 million a month.

Concepcion acknowledged that there were no flights last November because of Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation but the tourism industry has been slowly recovering, that tourists are paying the tax and the hotels are collecting and giving it to Finance.

"Once it gets to Finance, where does it go?" he asked.

The immediate impact on MVA, he said, is that they're delaying payments to vendors.

"This is our budget. The only budget we get is hotel occupancy tax. We are entitled 80 percent of it," Concepcion said.

He said if they don't get the 80 percent, MVA does not have anything.

Concepcion said the allotment is critically important to pay their representatives offshore—the Japan, China, and Korea markets.

"If they are not out there advertising us, then the market forgets us," he said.

Concepcion said they are concerned about losing the CNMI's presence in the market overseas if they do not maintain an active, aggressive marketing campaign.

"It is so highly competitive out there," he pointed out.

MAN

From Page 1

Joseph Camacho told Abaga that this wouldn't be the first time for a person arrested on either Tinian or Rota who found themselves stuck on Saipan following the dismissal of their case.

Camacho added that it's quite a situation because the defendant is no longer being charged but, at the same time, he still cannot return home.

The court is not obligated to cover the cost of a flight home for a person arrested on either of the two other islands in the Commonwealth.

Abaga's lawyer, the Office of the Public Defender's Jean Pierre Nogues, asked the court if there were any other alternatives or people to contact about the situation.

After much discussion, Nogues advised Abaga to visit the OPD after he is processed and released from the Department of Corrections to see what legal help he can get so he can return home.

Abaga was arrested on Tinian for allegedly punching his daughter in the face because she threw his car keys away in order to stop him from confronting her boyfriend with a machete.

According to court information, Abaga and his daughter got into an argument at around 1am on March 10, 2019, because Abaga wanted to "kill" her boyfriend with a machete for hitting her earlier in the evening.

The victim is the same one who was allegedly slapped, punched, and choked by her boyfriend, according to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*.

During the argument, the victim took the keys from Abaga's car and insisted that he stay and eventually threw the keys so he wouldn't leave and that was when Abaga punched the victim and she fell unconscious.

The victim told police that she did not want her father to go to jail and it was her fault she got hit.

The victim's sibling witnessed the event and told their landlady, who then reported the event to the police.

Suspicious package shuts down Guam marina

Empen

AGAT, Guam—The Agat Marina here was reopened to traffic at 12:15pm yesterday following an earlier closure due to a report of a suspicious package. The Coast Guard statement did not identify the package but said it was not a threat.

At 8:59am, Cmdr. Joshua Empen, acting commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and Captain of the Port, established a safety zone enforcement of 500 yards in the vicinity of Agat Marina following report of a suspicious package at the marina.

All precautions were taken to ensure the safety of the public and all responders.

U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service personnel were also on-scene with local and federal authorities to further investigate the nature of the equipment found. A Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit assisted and confirmed the package was not a threat.

Local law enforcement conducted additional sweeps of the harbor. The suspicious package will be turned over to the FBI.

As a reminder, do not approach, touch, or move any suspicious package. Carefully leave the area, contact 911, and provide information based on anything observed. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Emergency 3-day water service interruption

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption through today, March 13, 2019, from 8:30am to 3:30pm, to allow personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water operations to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch transmission water line on Airport Road. Areas that will be affected are Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, Airport Road in Dandan, As Lito, Lower Dandan, Tottotville, and portions of Adobu Drive in Koblerville. The northbound lane fronting Hawthorne CAT's warehouse on Airport Road will be closed.

GMS' Pamintuan places 3rd at spelling bee

From left to right, Green Meadow School principal Milagros Songcuan, GMS students Christian Ted Pamintuan and Cloe Lagmay, and Spelling Bee coach Lorelisa Espiritu. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School 8th grader Christian Ted Pamintuan made it to third place at the 47th Annual Scripps Regional Spelling Bee last March 2, 2019, at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa.

This year, Pamintuan competed with 63 spellers from other schools all over the Marianas.

Pamintuan was 11 years old when he started his Scripps Regional Spelling Bee journey. His first time to become a school spelling bee champion happened when he was in 5th grade and has managed to retain his ranking.

His goal this year was to become the regional champion to represent the CNMI at the nationals in Washington, D.C. and he is already looking forward to joining the National Scripps Spelling Bee next year through the RSVBee Program of the Scripps Spelling Bee. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force have started training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla, from 8am to 10pm daily. It will last until March 15.

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps also started training at Warning Area 517, from 12:05am to 11:55pm daily. It will last until March 21.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla is in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

For the W-517 training, the Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will be closed for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, March 19, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Class of 1981 reunion meeting

Attention to all Marianas High School Class of 1981 and off-island graduate(s) in Guam and the U.S. mainland that there will be a 1981 class reunion meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, starting at 6pm at the Tech-NIC Computer above Sherwin Paint across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Register for NMC's spring semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education that they still have until March 23, 2019, to register for the upcoming spring semester.

- Registration for ongoing and new students via Proa Portal: Ongoing until March 23, 2019
- First day of classes: April 1, 2019

NMC will be also having a free information session on March 21, 2019, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's Olympio T. Borja Library. It is open to all prospective students and interested community members. Those who would like to apply for admission or register for classes can attend the info session.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-006

KAGMAN WATERLINE AND BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, on the installation of a new booster station to replace the existing Kumoi pump station. The work also includes and connection of a new 8-inch PVC transmission line and a new 6-inch PVC distribution line complete with all necessary valves, fittings, and appurtenances. It will also involve the rehabilitation of the existing deep well KG-131 and the reconnection of all customers onto new or existing waterlines within the project area. The Contractor shall complete the work in accordance with the plans, specifications and terms of the contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the United States Office of Insular Affairs (US OIA) thru the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island (CNMI) Capital Improvement Project Office (CIP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA and the CNMI CIP Office.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-006- Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer at email travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-013

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-013, Agingan Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times, and locations:

■ **Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Isa Drive, Lower Papago
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Lower Papago
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace nine wooden poles with concrete ones

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 6:30am to 11:30am**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Feeder 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Oleai
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Oleai
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-12
- ❑ Work to be performed: Reset four concrete poles to proper depth

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Kiya 1distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Dandan
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Saipan International Airport and As Perdido
- ❑ Water service affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace 11 wooden poles with concrete ones *(PR)*

■ **Thursday, March 14, 2019 – 4pm to 6pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
- ❑ Villages: San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao and San Antonio
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao and San Antonio
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: W-5, A-4, A-5 and A-6
- ❑ Work to be performed: Maintenance

■ **Friday, March 15, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Kagman 1 and Kagman 2
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Kagman 1 and Kagman 2
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: KG-19, KG-7, KG-8 and KG-14
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: Kagman 1 and Kagman 2 may be affected depending on tank level
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace seven (7) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Saturday, March 16, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Koblerville
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Koblerville
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: None
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace ten (10) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Saturday, March 16, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: As Matuis
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Binadu Drive
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base may be affected depending on tank level
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace four (4) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Sunday, March 17, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: Koblerville
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Koblerville
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: None
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace four (4) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Sunday, March 17, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1 and Feeder 3 double distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: China Town, Middle Road
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: China Town
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Falape Booster
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Falape
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace four (4) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Monday, March 18, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: As Matuis
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: Binadu Drive
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base may be affected depending on tank level
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace four (4) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 11am to 6pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: As Matuis
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: RTE 320 and Binadu Drive
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field
- ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base will be affected during the duration of the power outage
- ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- ❑ Work to be performed: Replace eight (8) wooden poles with concrete poles

■ **Thursday, March 21, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
- ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
- ❑ Village location: As Matuis
- ❑ Power service area(s) affected: RTE 320
- ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field

Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base may be affected depending on tank level

Wastewater service area(s) affected: None

Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from CUC and the contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace wooden poles with concrete ones and conduct maintenance of the system around Saipan.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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Imperial Pacific Intl. (CNMI) LLC encourages gaming responsibly.
If you feel you have a gaming problem, please ask about our Responsible Gaming Program or call The National Council on Program Gambling at 1-800-522-4700.
You must be 21 years old to gamble.

Saipan's newly trained and certified CNMI litter control apprehending officers.

BECQ ADMINISTRATOR ELI CABRERA

Saipan has a new batch of anti-littering police

A total of 51 government employees from various agencies took part in the 2019 Litter Control Apprehending Officer training of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last March 8.

That means litterbugs on Saipan need to shape up; There is a fresh batch of newly certified anti-littering watchdogs in the community.

The training for Tinian and Rota apprehending officers will be scheduled with the respective municipalities.

The government employees who attended the March 8 training were from the BECQ, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Bureau of Environmental Health, Department of Public Lands, Mayor's Office of Saipan, Department of Public Works, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Zoning Office and Department of Public Safety did not attend.

The training and certification of these apprehending officers from these eight agencies is provided under Public Law 19-53, which amended the CNMI Litter Control Act of 1989 (P.L. 6-39) in 2016. These new anti-littering officers will enforce the provisions of the anti-littering law.

The training covered topics such as filling out/issuing citations, collecting evidence and chain-of-custody, report writing, and court processing. The training also provided hands-on case study discussions to facilitate further understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the apprehending officers and enforcement of the litter regulations.

The 2016 amendment of the CNMI Litter Control Act changed the fine for litter violation from the minimum $200 to a range of no less than $25 to no more than $5,000. Due to the large penalty range, BECQ developed a fee matrix, which was included into the regulations, to provide the apprehending officers with a guideline for applying consistent penalty fine for the litter violation. The participants were also trained on how to apply the fee matrix when assessing a violation.

Assistant attorney general Frannie Demapan and police officer Dan Smith, seated, help conduct the Litter Control Apprehending Officers Training at the Pacific Islands Club last March 8.

DEQ DIRECTOR RAY MASGA

BECQ would like to express its appreciation to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety for supporting and assisting in conducting the training.

CNMI residents and businesses are being urged to be aware that these newly trained and certified litter officers are out there and they are ready to enforce against any litter violators. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-029

Opening Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019
Closing Date: Until filled

SUPERVISOR, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS (SAIPAN) ("OS")

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands 9NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager or "DM" (also known as the Division Manager for Water and Wastewater) who will reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director or "DED" (also known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater). This position is sometimes referred to with a slightly different word combination; but the key term is "OS". The OS will oversee the STP operations on Saipan. This position is as required by paragraph 11 of Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands. Additional duties and responsibilities are as directed and required. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION : **Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY : $56,439.00 to 77,479.00 per annum, Exempt
(Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION : One (1)
CONTRACT : Two (2) years, subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Licensing Requirement: A current Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Education: Completion of two (2) years of college, with major courses in sciences, math, or other appropriate fields.

Experience: Three (3) years of experience as a supervisor in a wastewater treatment plant utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.

Skills: Demonstrate proven supervisory and communication skills.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant that operates at a capacity of at least one and a half (1-1/2) mgd, including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org
4. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2019
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 22, 2019

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media).
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Richard Sikkel at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your application must be received on or before the submission deadline.

National spotlight continues efforts to find Luhk sisters

The national television show "In Pursuit with John Walsh" will be airing a short segment on March 28 (March 27 in the U.S. mainland) about the ongoing search for the missing Luhk sisters, Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

According to a short email from the Guam office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "In Pursuit with John Walsh" is broadcast on the Investigation Discovery channel (part of Discovery, Inc.) It airs in the U.S. mainland on Wednesdays at 10/9 Central and has simultaneous broadcasts across the globe.

The FBI already has a website, www.luhksisters.org, which is dedicated to locating the sisters, who have been missing for nearly eight years now.

Faloma and Maleina, who were ages 10 and 9 at the time of their disappearance, were last seen waiting at a bus stop shelter near their home in As Teo, Saipan on the morning of May 25, 2011.

The sisters' disappearance sparked a monthlong search but no trace could be found. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Imperial Pacific warns of likely loss in 2018

The group controlling the Imperial Pacific Resort, a casino property on Saipan, says that, based on unaudited data, it expects to swing from annual profit in 2017 to a loss for the year to Dec. 31, 2018.

Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. said in a Friday filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that the expected deficit was "mainly attributable to the decrease in total revenue and the impairment of trade receivables."

The group's annual profit for 2017 had been HKD637.5 million (US$81.2 million), although that was a 32-percent slide on the profit recorded by the group in 2016.

On its 2018 interim balance sheet filed in late August, Imperial Pacific said that gross trade receivables—typically associated in the casino industry with money owed by VIP gamblers for losses they incurred while playing on credit—for the six months to June 30 were up slightly, at HKD13.70 billion, compared to HKD13.28 billion in the prior-year period.

Imperial Pacific's casino business is in the CNMI, a United States possession in the western Pacific Ocean. The group said it expects to report its full-year 2018 results on or before March 31.

In late February, Saipan media reported representatives of the promoter saying work on Imperial Pacific Resort would finish this year.

In early March the *Saipan Tribune* newspaper reported that the local regulator, the Commonwealth Casino Commission, had granted provisional licences to three junkets for operations at Imperial Pacific Resort.

The news outlet further reported a senior official from the regulator saying it would not seek to limit—albeit subject to regulatory approval—the number of junkets that could do business at the gaming venue.

Cui Li Jie, chairwoman of Imperial Pacific, had been named on the 2018 list compiled by *Forbes* magazine ranking the world's U.S.-dollar billionaires. Cui was absent from *Forbes*' 2019 World's Billionaires list. ***(www.ggrasia.com)***

Trump pushes $611 million budget for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. President Donald J. Trump proposed yesterday $611 million for fiscal year 2020 through the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for the benefit of Americans in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI.

The proposal also includes funding for U.S. allies in the Pacific who have a Compact of Free Association with the United States—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The OIA budget proposal includes $84.1 million in discretionary appropriations and $526.6 million in mandatory funding.

"The 2020 budget request prioritizes the department's mission to fulfill our insular area responsibilities in the Caribbean as well as in the Pacific," said the U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech. "The proposed budget represents action to strengthen economic and health capacities in the U.S. territories while also fulfilling U.S. obligations to the Freely Associated States." ***(PR)***

DONATION

McDonald's Guam donates $2,500 in support of the 31st Rainbows for All Children Guam 3.5 Mile Run/Walk for Youth. From left are Divina Angeles Evaristo, marketing manager, McDonald's Guam; Marie Virata Halloran, executive director, Rainbows for All Children Guam; and Marcia Ayuyu, vice president and owner, McDonald's Guam and Saipan. RAINBOWS FOR ALL CHILDREN GUAM

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
SUMMER INTERNSHIP
WE ARE LOOKING FOR 15 CNMI-BASED COLLEGE STUDENTS, OR COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CORAL REEF AND COASTAL ZONE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. OUR SUMMER INTERNS WORK 20 HOURS A WEEK BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST (DATES TO BE DETERMINED) AND ARE PAID $8.00 PER HOUR.
THIS SUMMER'S INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WILL INCLUDE:
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Strategic Communications
Community Education + Outreach
Marine Monitoring
Shoreline Monitoring
Regulatory Compliance
Special Area Management
TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS BY MARCH 15, 2019 TO THE DCRM OFFICE IN MIDDLE ROAD, GUALO RAI OR BY EMAIL TO OUTREACH@DCRM.GOV.MP
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- TRANSCRIPTS (official or unofficial)
- TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECCOMMENDATION (instructors and/or employers only)
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

After close call, India and Pakistan need diplomacy

The most important story in the world last week was the brinkmanship between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan.

The two South Asian nations have fought four wars since independence in 1947, and they could have been on a path to a fifth, only this time with an arsenal that could mean catastrophic consequences for the region, if not the world.

The precipitating event was a Feb. 14 suicide car-bombing attack that killed about 40 paramilitary forces in India-administered Kashmir, an area also claimed by Pakistan in a dispute that's one of the driving dynamics in the decades of enmity between the two countries.

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), a Pakistan-based terrorist group, claimed responsibility, but India believes that Pakistan's government is ultimately responsible because it hasn't reined in JeM or similar terrorist groups.

But India went beyond blaming to bombing, and targeted what it said was a JeM camp in Pakistan. It was the most significant military escalation since each country raised the stakes with late-1990s proliferation.

Pakistan claims that no people or structures were struck—just pine trees—but it retaliated by sending jets into Indian-administered Kashmir to drop bombs in open country in a display of strength. A dogfight ensued, and two Indian jets were downed—one in India (which India denies) and one in Pakistan.

An Indian pilot ejected and was captured by Pakistani forces in what could have been the tipping point into calamity. But the pilot was well treated, and then soon released, and both sides have seemed to step back from the brink.

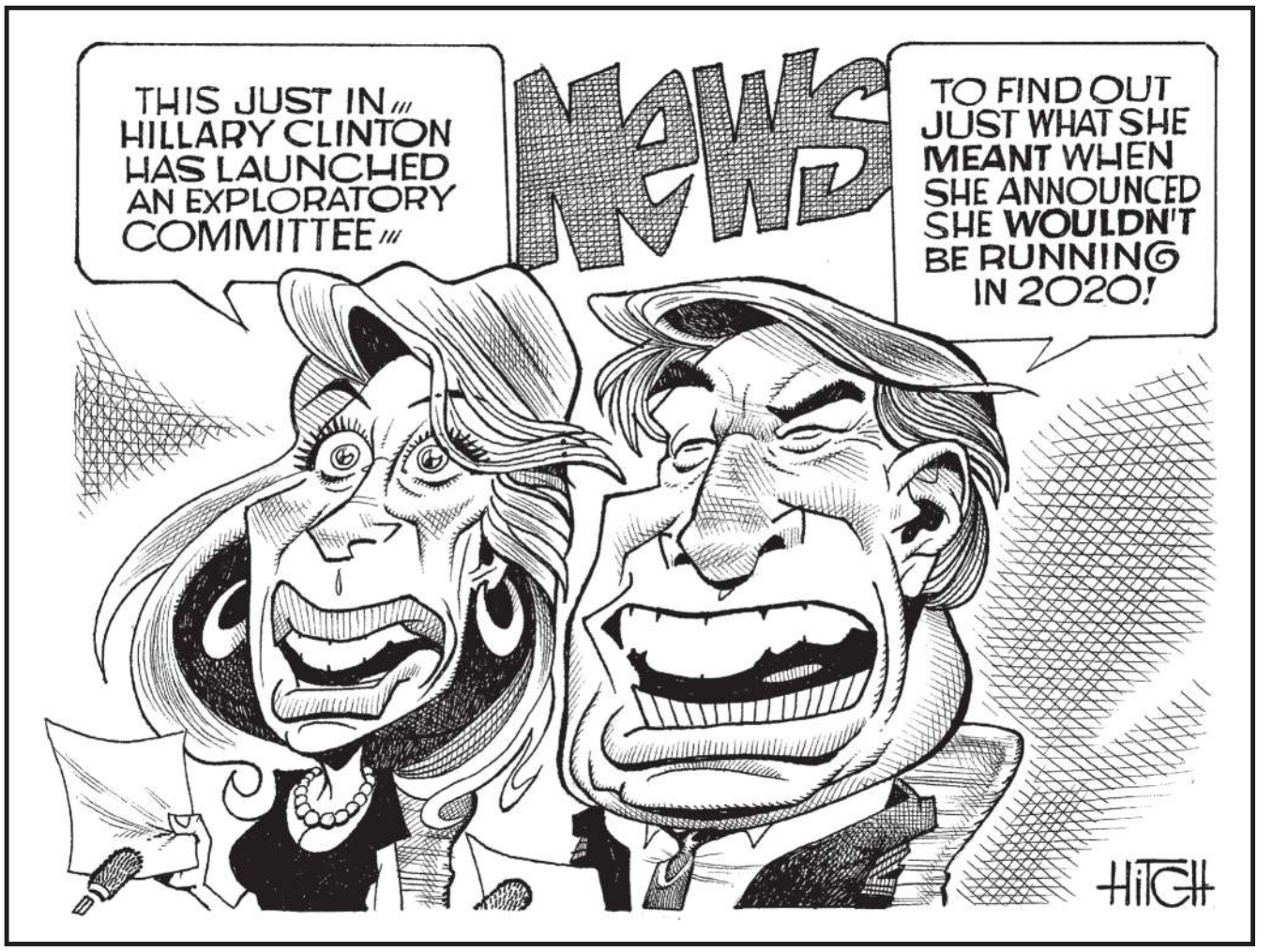
Now the two countries need to do much more.

In India, jingoism on social media and from ostensible journalists has whipped up an irresponsible war fever that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, facing an April national election, cannot allow to engulf his populace. While Modi made his reputation as an unrepentant Hindu nationalist, he should be an Indian nationalist by embracing diplomacy over bellicosity.

In Islamabad, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan must go beyond bromides and convince Pakistan's most powerful institution, its armed forces, that tacit acceptance of terrorist groups will ruin the nation. (Pakistan's overdue arrest of dozens of JeM suspects Tuesday is a good start.)

"These two countries had become gripped in an unsustainable cycle in which Pakistan backed various terrorist and military groups to launch attacks in Kashmir, and India, in my opinion, showed remarkable restraint for many years," Jeff Smith, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation who specializes on South Asia, told an editorial writer.

See AFTER on Next Page


THIS JUST IN... HILLARY CLINTON HAS LAUNCHED AN EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE...
NEWS
TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT SHE MEANT WHEN SHE ANNOUNCED SHE WOULDN'T BE RUNNING IN 2020!
HITCH

Is Kylie Jenner a Horatio Alger story for our time?

By MARY SANCHEZ
Tribune Content Agency

Readers can reach Mary Sanchez at msanchezcolumn@gmail.com and follow her on Twitter @msanchezcolumn.

What does it mean to be a "self-made" person of great wealth?

It's a question that cropped up in many minds this week when Forbes magazine proclaimed cosmetics tycoon Kylie Jenner to be the world's youngest "self-made" billionaire at 21.

Self-made? Like starting a company in the garage at night after working a fulltime job and tapping out all of your credit cards to build it? That's not how Kylie Cosmetics launched.

Jenner is a member of the storied Kardashian-Jenner blended family, stars of the popular television series "Keeping up with the Kardashians." She and her sisters have proved to be successful impresarios of a lifestyle brand based on fame for being famous.

Predictably, the Forbes announcement prompted critics to decry Jenner's pouty social media selfies and the general vacuousness of the Kardashian-Jenner phenomenon. Yet many were moved also to acknowledge that Jenner is not just some lucky dope: She has been savvy in leveraging her birthright fame.

It got me thinking about women in business and the many myths of career success and failure. In particular, it made me miss a mentor and onetime collaborator of mine, Gwen Martin, who died of cancer at age 70 in February.

Martin was a manager of research and evaluation at the Kansas City-based Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the U.S., which focuses on education and entrepreneurship. Her work, like that of so many other brilliant female minds, went largely unheralded during her lifetime.

Martin came to conclusions that undercut some of America's most cherished myths about class, particularly the notion that people can readily hop up the socio-economic scale. Most people do not. And it's often not for a lack of trying.

Martin brought needed clarity about women who did beat those odds to join the professional middle class. She examined the underbelly of their grit, the darker side of the attributes that helped them earn college degrees and managerial and decision-making status.

These are not Jenner's people.

I was one of the women Martin studied. As subjects, Martin (who then went by her married name, Richtermeyer) chose professional women roughly of equal work status. Martin divided them by class background, based on the social capital and status of their parents.

Those like me who did not come from college-educated or professional parents were "Movers." Those who did were termed "Originals."

She uncovered that at some point in their careers, the Movers had nagging doubts and problems with bosses or coworkers—frustrations that were often mislabeled as being about race or gender.

Yet repeatedly, she determined that class background was the salient factor in these conflicts. Nonetheless, the Movers were unaware of how their class backgrounds lingered and contributed.

Their early experiences explained it. They were self-starters by necessity. They tended to learn alone, squirrelled away with a book. As youths, they worked fast food or retail jobs and told of going to great lengths to figure out how to apply to and afford college.

Their mothers had been the motivating force for their career aspirations, albeit through their own dashed hopes. The mothers had encouraged the daughters by underlining what they didn't want for their daughters. Common messages: I don't want you to struggle, to have to depend on a man for rent, to wind up working for tips as a waitress.

Originals, on the other hand, tended to be influenced by their fathers, even when their mothers were also professionals. By comparison to the Movers' mothers, the messages Originals' fathers gave were astoundingly more positive.

The fathers encouraged all of their daughters' dreams, including to break traditional gender roles. From listening to how their fathers spoke about what they expected from a workplace, these women had learned about how to function in the professional class.

Original girls joined clubs and benefited from the experience. College education was a given.

Meanwhile, in the less affluent families, those little girls were building a sense that if they were going to make it, they would have to do it on their own. It's an attitude that they carried with them, even long after they had successfully moved into the middle class.

Martin and I used to give presentations on her research, which was the subject of her doctoral dissertation at the University of Kansas.

We often watched the lightbulbs going off in women's heads, moments of recognition when they'd see their own attitudes and experiences reframed.

So what are we to make of Kylie Jenner's "self-made" success? Let's give her credit for the personal talents and qualities she brings to her enterprise. But let's also admit the ways in which such success stories feed myths about social mobility, and let's begin a more honest and aware assessment of what really helps people get ahead in life.

Kutturan relihion

Selebrasion kuaresma i mas dignu yan respetau na kutturan relihion mañgatoliku guine siha na petlas. Deste man-famaguon hit i mañainata machoneg finana`guen espirituat deste dottrina gi finagpu` eskuela yan tinayuyot familia gi gima` antes de oran deskansu.

Mañeha hit ginen otdinariu na ha`anita para ta assiste selebrasion pasun i Sainata espesiatmenti gi Bietnes Santo. Gi tinayuyot-ta ta hassu fehman `nai masentensia i Sainata sin umisau, makastiga, mapunu` gi kilu`us, mahafot dispues lumala` ta`lu gi mina tres dias. Tai achaigua na sakrifisiu ginen i Satbadotta pot para una` fan libre hit.

Espirituat un` añkla ni umadelanta fitme yan sattun na sensian yine`ase`, ina`ayuda, respetu yan inagofli`e gi halum tau-tau-ta siha. Mauleg na finana`gue lokue` gi famaguon-ta `nai man-eyag benefisiosu na linala` espirituat para satbasion niha.

Hu hassu antes i oran `las tres gi Bietnes Santo (`nai matai i Sainata) na enteru i señgsuñg siha mansilensiu. Mañaunau i tautau gi likau dispues de `las tres estake mahafot i Sainata.

Guaha ora para tinayuyot (kulan bela) gi halum Guma` Yuus. Sige mona esta i Sabalon Loria yan Pasguan Resureksion (Dameñgu) `nai kahulu` i Saina gi lañget. Kutturan relihion natibu! Felis Pasgua Resureksion para todu! Si JR yan Familia.

Kuttura: Sige sineyu` proteksion kutturan natibu gi fina` kanta siha. Mauleg! Lau ni unu umesplika hafa mafafama na kuttura.

Hafa kutturan Chamoru? Mauleg ta pula` yan esplika este para benefisiun todu. Sin fitme na infotmasion puru dispues finu` apotsu` na kuttura ni madagau ginen i chagu`. Debi tana` klaru pot uttimu besis haf` kutturata.

Atan haf` modun linala` natibu deste antigu na tiempu yan kau sumaga kumu patte gi linala`ta asuntun gualu` yan pinegsai. Siña ha` ti man-hanau hit para i lanchu lau rikonose tatten guma`.

Mañaunau ham man-malulog gi gualu` antes mina` chettun giya hame haf` benefisiun mananum yan mamogsai. Sumen namagof na patte i para ta hale` tinanum suni `sino kamuti para usun lamasan sena. Piot ya guaha katdun manog fresku pat to`lañg para una` libianu mañgañgas yan pañut `aggun haya.

Huñgan, gualu` yan tasi dos primera lugat kuttura. Lau hafa i primera kutturan natibu? Kumu `in seda` natutuñgu`yu`!

Botlu: Un` kantot mamaisen haf` na gigon mangai salape` hit kontodu mañata matulaika? Kulan finaisen chagu gi hilu` inosenteria yan insuttu.

Insuttu este na kuestion para i kanaha pumupunu` siha gi moseria manmacho`chu` para mantension familian niha! Ti dibatde sa` mafachochu`e pagamientun niha!

Animu i natibu macho`chu` para mantensioña. Ti na`banidosu i para tafan o`nañga finacho`chu` otru. Namamahlau gi fuetsudu na lahen natibu este na modun linala`. Poresu na humanau man-espiha offisioña gi moseria.

Disposision tanu` familia seguruyu` na todu mana fan mañage gi suetten niha. I kutturan ina`ayuda ya monana kontodu `nai guaha suette. Maseha dididi` lau todu mana` fan mañage. Disposision man-agofli`e na familia!

Pues i kanta dididi` tagfena gi bandan botlu sin motibu. Kustumbren tanu` i para un` apase nesessidat-mu ginen un` fachuchu`e na pagamientomu.

**Nina`e:** Gi fina` gotpe, i kustumbren natibu i man-na`e ayudu gi familia ni gai chinatsaga. Este na nina`e ha kubre pinadesin fina` matai, fandañgo, finagpu` nobena yan otru siha asuntun familia yan hihot na bisinu. Dispues de todu debi umanana`lu ayu na nina`e.

Chagu` na difirensia yan nina`en gineftau `sino regalu ginen man-atuñgu`. Namagof pot kanaha` todu gotpe mangeftau hit na tautague yan fitme gi oran ina`ayuda. Mas ha simientu respetau na dinaña` natibu!

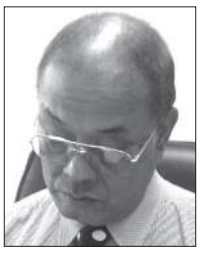
Miskinu: Guaha lokue` kustumbren miskinu. Kumeke ileghu achog machuchuda buchiña ya sumen chatsaga hau gi un` banda, ti u hatsa kanaiña man-na`e maseha dididi` pot che`chu` karidat yan kilisyanu. Ti hu lañgag umupus prohimu-hu ni gai chinatsaga.

Gineftau gi namase` todu i tiempu ha bibirague` tatte dopble ke ninai-mu. Para i mamopblen mame hu soda` un` patgon ni matiteg todu magaguña na esta hu bira matahu pot tihu hoñge. Hu manau-yu` para iya hame man-aligau `an sopblan unu gi che`luhu para i prohimu. Felis ayu na ayudu-hu.

Benti tantus añus dispues, umasodayu` yan i prohimu. Esta magradua gi kolehu ya mauleg puestoña gi un` dañkulun kompania giya Los Angeles. Sin ditension, ha togtugyu` ya ilegña 'Si Yuus Maase` nu i ayudumu". Ha mente dispues na guahu ha pega kumu moduña gi bandan yine`ase` yan mauleg na akonsehu. Tatnai sumeha man-ayuda gi manchatsaga siha na famaguon giya LA. Mit grasias!

**Finu` Chamoru:** I kantata "Palasyon I Riku" guaha dididi` chinatsaga gi palabra yan ma-apotsu` na liñguahe. Ilegña un` kantot, "Ti gi un` palasyon i riku `nai gaige tano`hu". I palabra "kamahu" ti "tano`hu". Dispues repara sa` ni ñgai`an `nai siña unna` hulat un` tanu gi buttun guma`! Haf` mohon?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Satires, 45th Presidential Library, and Eulogy

Perusing Purloined Presidential Library Plans: A Satire

"I've lived out one more day than I should have lived. Fortune, unrestrained in prosperity and ill, were it your pleasure with the lure and praise of letters, to shatter the very summit of my good name,"

—excerpt from An Old Actor Addresses Julius Caesar by Decimus Laberius, (c. 105 - 43 B.C.)

45th POTUS started his 2020 campaign rallies shortly after taking office do you remember his declared slogan? forgotten now? due to good advice the presidential library probably down on his golf course in Mira Lago illegal immigrants (already employed) bring you drinks on Russian ice he shortened length of golf greens and tees to make room and save money.

A special auditorium with a cyber seat for every day 45 has been in office each seat will show tweets on a screen for each day he's been in the WH redactions and US presidentially approved post tweet deletions/subtractions will be removed and /or changed due to fact checking lies and memory loss if the Donald happens to ever be finally reading one... uh... fugeddaboutit. There will be few hardcover or paperback books found in the library's nooks only praise Donald covers of pre-presidential copies of the National Enquirer headlines all written and saved in a safe by his editor buddy David Pecker all guaranteed to be soothing balm for the red burned base vote rednecker 45 didn't write or read much; none by any former employee fact checker.

When the library is finished or open is anyone's guess, only the Donald's call guarantee it will be completely surrounded by an impenetrable barrier or wall.

POTUS Eulogies: One of the First, Future One Proposed for 45

On Dec. 26 in 1799 former first president George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Two hundred thirty years later a proposal for after the demise of our present POTUS 45.

First in hyperbole, first in denial, first among narcissists among fellow countrymen. First and highest number of tweets, first in over 9,000 fact-checked lies term to date. First to say on TV to the public that a congressional investigation was "bullshit"

Hopefully the last president installed in office as a result of Electoral College votes. Hopefully he pays years of back taxes, pays fines for crimes of tax and bank fraud. Hopefully last to denigrate women in public and pay to have prostitutes shut up. Hopefully last to call the media 'enemy of the people' in defiance of the US Constitution. Hopefully last to badmouth our basic democratic institutions the DOJ and the FBI.

A few words from 45 on his declared "national emergency" and separation of thousands of children from their parents and kept in chain link fence enclosures along the border of Mexico. "I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather do it much faster." —President Donald J. Trump.

AFTER

From Page 10

for many years," Jeff Smith, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation who specializes on South Asia, told an editorial writer.

Ultimately, the Kashmir issue must be addressed. But Bharath Gopalaswamy, director of the South Asia Center at the Atlantic Council, said the solution needs to come from the two parties directly involved and that an outside power "should only involve itself if and when there is an invitation by both India and Pakistan to resolve the issue."

That moment can't come soon enough. As Khan warned after a meeting with his country's National Security Council: "I ask India: With the weapons you have and the weapons we have, can we really afford a miscalculation?"

Then, with words that must be acted upon, he added: "Let's sit and settle this with talks."

(c)2019 *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis)

US compiling dossiers

A San Diego television station recently obtained some troubling documents that seem to show that the U.S. government, working with Mexican officials under a program called Operation Secure Line, has created and shared dossiers on journalists, immigrant rights lawyers and activists covering or involved with the so-called caravans of migrants moving from Central America to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Worse yet, the government then detained some of these people for questioning (one photojournalist was held for 13 hours), barred some of them from crossing the border and interfered with their legitimate efforts to do their jobs. NBC 7 also received a copy of a purported government dossier on lawyer Nicole Ramos, refugee program director for a migrant rights group, that included a description of her car, her mother's name, and details on her work and travel history. That's not border security, that's an intelligence operation and, as the American Civil Liberties Union pointed out, "an outrageous violation of the First Amendment."

The ACLU noted correctly that it is impermissible for the government to use "the pretext of the border to target activists critical of its policies, lawyers providing legal representation, or journalists simply doing their jobs."

It's unclear when the intelligence gathering began, or how widespread it is, but the Committee to Protect Journalists reported in October that U.S. border agents, using the broad power the law gives them to question people entering the country, seemingly singled out journalists for in-depth examinations, including searching their phones, laptops and cameras _ all without warrants, because they're generally not required at the border. These are troubling developments deserving of close scrutiny by Congress and, if warranted, the courts.

The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for controlling the flow of people across U.S. borders and has broad and court-recognized authority to search for contraband. But the government should not use that authority as a pretext to try to gain information to which it would not otherwise be entitled. And it certainly doesn't give it a framework for harassing or maintaining secret files on journalists, lawyers and activists who are covering, representing or working with activists.

Homeland Security defended the targeting by linking the intelligence operation to the agency's investigation of efforts this winter by some Central American migrants to cross the wall near San Ysidro, Calif. It said also that all the people entered into the database had witnessed border violence. That sounds an awful lot like a criminal investigation, not a border security operation.

The name of the report leaked to NBC 7 was "Migrant Caravan FY-2019: Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators, and Media." The only thing suspect here is the government's actions.

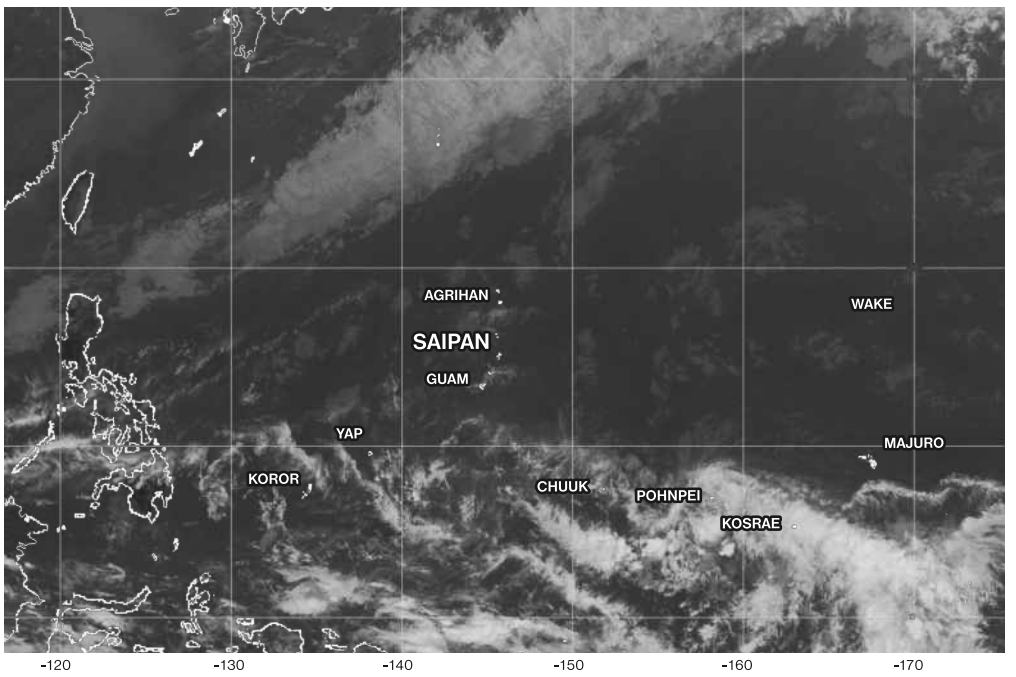
(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. These showers are part of a line moving from east to west, and should only be in the Marianas a couple more hours. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 12 to 18 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 8 feet composed of east-northeast trade-wind waves and swell plus a smaller north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	57° / 34°
Hong Kong	Showers	72° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 69°
London	Showers	54° / 43°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 48°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Miami	Showers	78° / 72°
New York	Mixed	46° / 37°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Paris	Showers	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Rome	Rain	57° / 45°
Salem	Cloudy	73° / 62°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 46°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	52° / 34°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	46° / 32°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.59
5:46 AM	LOW TIDE	0.93
11:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
6:41 PM	LOW TIDE	0.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:51 AM	11:58 PM	-
Thursday	11:41 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:55 AM	12:35 PM
Saturday	-	1:54 AM	1:33 PM
Sunday	-	2:52 AM	2:35 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Making kidney treatment more affordable, preventable

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said that providing care and finding additional resources for patients who are suffering from kidney disease should be looked into in order to curb the rising costs of treating those who could no longer afford it.

That sentiment was prompted by Dr. Magdy Maksy, the Commonwealth Health Center's nephrologist and dialysis medical director, who said that the hospital treats patients who are on dialysis despite their lack of funds.

"We can't simply tell them that they can't get dialysis or let them die since [they] don't have money. Ethically, we can't do that," she said, adding that many states in the U.S. mainland consider kidney disease a life-threatening emergency that needs life-sustaining treatment.

"If you don't provide the coverage, the patient will die. There are people who have been working and living on the island that don't have any health insurance. But we have to provide treatment for them; we have to. Even though we don't get any reimbursement for that," she added.

Palacios signed Monday the proclamation that designates March as National Kidney Month.

Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that, although a lot of local patients have access to Medicaid or Medicare, the government must still do more.

"What was being talked about is to take a closer look at the cost of providing care. So, we also have to provide [healthcare] help to even non-citizens and to those folks without insurance or access to financial resources," Palacios said. "We need to take a close look…to see…how we could either come up with an insurance plan or [a system of] some sort to help curb the cost that CHCC absorbs."

This could be another issue for discussion when the Torres administration and the Legislature prepare the CNMI's fiscal year 2020 budget, he said. "We can find ways where we can fund this."

Palacios said the community must also be made aware that kidney disease is one of the more prevalent chronic diseases in the CNMI. "We need to have continuing efforts to provide healthcare. We need to push for this and efforts on prevention."

Type II diabetes and hypertension are main causes of kidney disease and renal failure, which is the fourth leading cause of death in the CNMI. Local data also showed that at least one in 10 CNMI adults has diabetes or within the 12 percent to 18 percent range while another 56 percent have hypertension.

Obesity is also a major driver of diabetes and hypertension. In the CNMI, two out of every three adults are overweight or obese. Another third of adults in the Commonwealth are borderline obese.

Palacios said he knows of friends and relatives who had succumbed to renal disease, which could have been prevented. "We must pool our resources to prevent this. We must encourage our people [to cultivate] a healthier lifestyle. …What's it going to take? It is just the matter of getting together with the government and providing additional resources. I would like to recommend that perhaps this body of experts in this room can brainstorm and see what we can do beyond dialysis."

NMC gets a new training bed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College received a hospital training bed last week for the college's nursing program.

Interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico said the new patient bed was a donation from the Marianas Visiting Nurses to assist in their nursing program.

"Our nursing students can use this as part of their training," Eliptico said in an interview, adding that the nurses could use the bed for simulation training.

"Part of the work that is involved in our nursing program is a lot of hands-on activities and curriculum, so the patient bed really allows our students to gain actual experience with equipment that they will see in hospitals and clinics," he added.

Currently, this is the only patient bed that NMC has, according to Eliptico. Many of the program's equipment were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.

"However, as part of our training, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. allows our students as part of the nursing program to participate in clinical studies…where they work alongside hospital staff that are registered nurses in the hospital," he said.

Eliptico noted that the college's temporary nursing classrooms will only be able to fit one bed. NMC sustained extensive typhoon damage throughout its As Terlaje campus. Classes are being held right now in temporary tents installed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We are of course working to replenish our nursing equipment and the laboratory, which was damaged by the typhoon," Eliptico said.

The donation, according to Eliptico, was made possible through talks between NMC Nursing chair Rosa Tudela and the leadership of the Marianas Visiting Nurses.

"We are very appreciative of the donation," he added.

RALPH DLG TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CNMI Office of Planning & Development (OPD)

The CNMI Office of Planning & Development is seeking **YOUR INPUT** on the CNMI's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (or CEDS), which is the CNMI's 5-year economic development & resiliency-building plan.

OPD has received nearly 200 project proposals from both government and local non-government organizations for inclusion within the CEDS. Your input is needed to identify which of these projects are of particular significance to you. Please visit http://www.cnmi-ceds.com to view the project proposals received and to leave a comment on which projects you think will foster sustainable economic development in the CNMI. For questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at planning.opd@gmail.com or at (670) 488-1221.

OPD will also be conducting public outreach at the following times & locations:

March 13, 2019: Tinian Department of Commerce, Conference Rm. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
March 14, 2019: Rota, Songsong Village, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
March 15, 2019: Rota, Sinapalo Village, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing
Supplemental EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process

Due to the effects of Typhoon Wutip, Navy officials postponed public meetings planned for Feb. 26-27, 2019. This notice announces the rescheduled public meetings and a 15-day extension of the comment period.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

Public Involvement

The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings, online at **www.MITT-EIS.com**, or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT SEIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Comments must be postmarked or received online by April 2, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Open House Public Meetings

Arrive and submit comments anytime during the open house. No presentation or public oral comment session will be conducted.

TINIAN, Thursday, March 14, 2019
1 to 3:30 p.m.
Tinian Public Library
San Jose Village

ROTA, Friday, March 15, 2019
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Hall
Songsong Village

SAIPAN, Monday, March 18, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
Kanoa Resort Saipan
Seaside Hall
Beach Road in Susupe

GUAM , Tuesday, March 19, 2019
5 to 8 p.m.
University of Guam
Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
and Henry Sy Atrium

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that Board Committees on Airport Facilities, Financial Affairs, Seaport Facilities and Personnel Affairs will be holding special meetings on Thursday, March 14, 2019, beginning 9:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

Airport Facilities Committee
I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 10, 2018)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business Items:
a. Solar updates
b. Airline Incentive Program
IV. New Business:
a. Tinian Airport Master Plan Presentation by N-15
b. Airport Properties
c. CPA Business Resource Guide
d. SIA PAPI/REIL- Change Order No. 2, CM Amendment No. 3 and Supplemental Budget Request
e. Committee Report
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous
VII. Adjournment

Financial Affairs Committee
I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 10, 2018)
II. Public Comments
III. Items:
a. Financial Reports (September & October 2018)
b. Fiscal Year 2017 Audits
c. CDA Loan Agreement & Statements
d. Typhoon Yutu – Financial Update
e. APC Sole Source Request
f. Port of Saipan Fenders – Change Order and Supplemental Budget Request
g. CUC Settlement Update
h. Committee Report
IV. Executive Session (if needed)
V. Miscellaneous
VI. Adjournment

Seaport Facilities Committee
I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 08, 2019)
II. Public Comments
III. Items:
a. GPPC, Inc. Lease
b. Tinian Ferry passenger fees
c. Committee Report
IV. Executive Session (if needed)
V. Miscellaneous
VI. Adjournment

Personnel Affairs Committee
I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 15, 2019)
II. Public Comments
III. Items:
a. Final Adoption of Personnel Rules and Regulations - Governor's Directives
b. FTE Conversion: Secretary II to Secretary/Tariff Technician (Rota)
c. FTE Conversion: Custodial/Maintenance to AOA/Ground Maintenance (Rota)
d. Committee Report
IV. Executive Session (if needed)
V. Miscellaneous
VI. Adjournment

Special Presentation: CPA Strategic Plan

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.
A time limit may be imposed for oral testimony.

Business

Airlines ground Boeing jet after plane crashes in Ethiopia

HEJERE, Ethiopia (AP)—Airlines in Ethiopia, China, Indonesia and elsewhere grounded the Boeing 737 Max 8 jetliner Monday after the second devastating crash of one of the planes in five months. But Boeing said it had no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies.

As the East African country mourned the 157 victims of the Ethiopian Airlines plane that went down in clear weather shortly after takeoff Sunday, investigators found the jetliner's two flight recorders at the crash site outside the capital of Addis Ababa.

An airline official, however, said one of the recorders was partially damaged and "we will see what we can retrieve from it." The official spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to speak to the media.

A witness to the crash told The Associated Press that smoke was coming from the back of the plane before it hit the ground.

"Before falling down, the plane rotated two times in the air, and it had some smoke coming from the back then, it hit the ground and exploded," Tamrat Abera said. "When the villagers and I arrived at the site, there was nothing except some burning and flesh."

Ethiopian authorities are leading the investigation into the crash, assisted by the U.S., Kenya and others.

The crash was similar to that of a Lion Air jet of the same model in Indonesian seas last year, killing 189 people. The crash was likely to renew questions about the 737 Max 8, the newest version of Boeing's single-aisle airliner, which was first introduced in 1967 and has become the world's most common passenger jet.

AP
This photo shows a Boeing 737 Max 8 type aircraft at William P. Hobby Airport in Houston on Monday, March 11, 2019.

Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons between the two crashes until more is known. Besides the groundings by airlines in Ethiopia, China and Indonesia, Aeromexico, Caribbean carrier Cayman Airways, Comair in South Africa and Royal Air Maroc in Morocco temporarily grounded their Max 8s.

Ethiopian Airlines decided to ground its remaining four 737 Max 8s until further notice as "an extra safety precaution," spokesman Asrat Begashaw said. The carrier had been using five of the planes and awaiting delivery of 25 more.

But Chicago-based Boeing said it did not intend to issue any new recommendations about the aircraft to its customers. It plans to send a technical team to the crash site to help investigators and issued a statement saying it was "deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the passengers and crew" on the jetliner.

Among the airlines still using the plane are Southwest, American and Air Canada.

In Washington, Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao said passenger safety was the first priority for the administration.

"I want travelers to be assured and that we are taking this seriously and monitoring latest developments," she said.

It's unusual for authorities to take the step of grounding planes, and it's up to each country to set standards on which planes can fly and how those planes are maintained, said Todd Curtis, an aviation safety analyst who directs the Airsafe.com Foundation.

"If there is a suspicion ... that there's not only something inherently wrong with 737 Max 8 aircraft, but there are no procedures in place to cure the problem, then yes, they should either ground the plane, or there are several levels of things they could do," Curtis said.

People from 35 countries died in the crash six minutes after takeoff from Ethiopia's capital for Nairobi. Ethiopian Airlines said the senior pilot issued a distress call and was told to return but all contact was lost shortly afterward. The plane plowed into the ground at Hejere near Bishoftu, scattering debris.

Trump proposes record spending, trillion-dollar deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump proposed a record $4.7 trillion budget on Monday, pushing the federal deficit past $1 trillion but counting on optimistic growth, accounting shuffles and steep domestic cuts to bring future spending into balance in 15 years.

Reviving his border wall fight with Congress, Trump wants more than $8 billion for the barrier with Mexico, and he's also asking for a big boost in military spending. That's alongside steep cuts in health care and economic support programs for the poor that Democrats—and even some Republicans—will oppose.

Trump called his plan a bold next step for a nation experiencing "an economic miracle." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called his cuts "cruel and shortsighted ... a roadmap to a sicker, weaker America."

Presidential budgets tend to be seen as aspirational blueprints, rarely becoming enacted policy, and Trump's proposal for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, sets up a showdown with Congress over priorities, especially as he reignites his push for money to build the U.S-Mexico border wall.

The deficit is projected to hit $1.1 trillion in the 2020 fiscal year, the highest in a decade. The administration is counting on robust growth, including from the Republican tax cuts—which Trump wants to make permanent—to push down the red ink. Some economists, though, say the bump from the tax cuts is waning, and they project slower economic expansion in coming years. The national debt is $22 trillion.

Even with his own projections, Trump's budget would not come into balance for a decade and a half, rather than the traditional hope of balancing in 10.

Titled "A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First," Trump's proposal "embodies fiscal responsibility," said Russ Vought, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Despite the large projected deficits, Vought said the administration has "prioritized reining in reckless Washington spending" and shows "we can return to fiscal sanity."

The budget calls the approach "MAGAnomics," after the president's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

Some fiscal watchdogs, though, panned the effort as more piling on of debt by Trump with no course correction in sight.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said Trump "relies on far too many accounting gimmicks and fantasy assumptions and puts forward far too few actual solutions." She warned the debt load will lead to slower income growth and stalled opportunities for Americans.

Perhaps most notably among spending proposals, Trump is returning to his border wall fight. Fresh off the longest government shutdown in history, his 2020 plan shows he is eager to confront Congress again over the wall.

The budget proposes increasing defense spending to $750 billion—and building the new Space Force as a military branch—while reducing nondefense accounts by 5 percent, with cuts recommended to economic safety-net programs used by many Americans. The $2.7 trillion in proposed reductions over the decade is higher than any administration in history, they say.

On Capitol Hill, the budget landed without much fanfare from Trump's GOP allies, while Democrats found plenty not to like.

Google paid a former official $35M after harassment claim

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google paid former search executive Amit Singhal $35 million in an exit package when he was reportedly forced to resign after a sexual assault investigation, according to court documents released Monday.

Details of the exit package were revealed as part of a shareholder lawsuit against the company, one that followed a published report of payouts Google made to executives accused of sexual misconduct.

The lawsuit targets the board of Google parent Alphabet, charging that its members had a duty to protect the company and its shareholders from risk and reputation damage. Instead, it says, the board agreed to pay off and otherwise support male executives facing misconduct charges—opening the company to reputational and financial damage by doing so.

Previously redacted portions of the lawsuit were made available Monday, including quotes from Alphabet board committee meetings.

One portion of the minutes showed that Singhal, a senior vice president of search who left the company in 2016, received two $15 million payments and a payment of between $5 million to $15 million as part of a separation agreement. The total payment could have been up to $45 million.

Singhal was one subject of a New York Times investigation last year that revealed Google paid Android creator Andy Rubin $90 million in a severance package after the company found allegations of sexual assault against him were credible. Rubin has denied the claims.

Singhal has also denied the claims against him, saying in a statement to the AP in 2017 that he had not been accused of harassment before and that he left Google on his own terms. Singhal did not immediately return a request for comment Monday.

But the New York Times, citing three people briefed on the incident, reported that an employee claimed Singhal groped her at an off-campus event. A Google investigation found her claims credible, according to the Times.

Previously, the Times reported Singhal was paid "millions" in an exit package. Singhal later joined Uber, but left after just five weeks. News reports at the time said he failed to tell Uber he left Google because of a sexual harassment allegation.

Google acknowledged the unredacted claims in the lawsuit Monday and said in a statement that there are "serious consequences for anyone who behaves inappropriately at Google."

Nation

Pelosi waves off IMPEACHMENT, says it would divide country

AP
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., meets with reporters during her weekly news conference, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, March 7, 2019.

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is setting a high bar for impeachment of President Donald Trump, saying he is "just not worth it" even as some on her left flank clamor to start proceedings.

Pelosi said in an interview with The Washington Post that "I'm not for impeachment" of Trump.

"Unless there's something so compelling and overwhelming and bipartisan, I don't think we should go down that path, because it divides the country," she said.

While she has made similar comments before, Pelosi is making clear to her caucus and to voters that Democrats will not move forward quickly with trying to remove Trump from office. And it's a departure from her previous comments that Democrats are waiting on special counsel Robert Mueller to lay out findings from his Russia investigation before considering impeachment.

That thinking among Democrats has shifted, slightly, in part because of the possibility that Mueller's report will not be decisive and because his investigation is more narrowly focused. Instead, House Democrats are pursuing their own broad, high-profile investigations that will keep the focus on Trump's business dealings and relationship with Russia, exerting congressional oversight without having to broach the I-word.

Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings, one of the lawmakers leading those investigations, said he agrees with Pelosi and Congress needs "to do our homework." He said impeachment "has to be a bipartisan effort, and right now it's not there."

"I get the impression this matter will only be resolved at the polls," Cummings said.

Still, Pelosi's comments are certain to stoke a stubborn tension with those who believe impeachment proceedings should have begun on day one of the new Congress. Some new freshman Democrats who hail from solidly liberal districts haven't shied away from the subject — Michigan Rep. Rashida Tlaib used a vulgarity in calling for Trump's impeachment the day she was sworn in.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who is bankrolling a campaign pushing for Trump's impeachment, shot back at Pelosi on Monday: "Speaker Pelosi thinks 'he's just not worth it?' Well, is defending our legal system 'worth it?' Is holding the president accountable for his crimes and coverups 'worth it?' Is doing what's right 'worth it?' Or shall America just stop fighting for our principles and do what's politically convenient."

Neil Sroka of the liberal advocacy group Democracy for America said Pelosi's comments were "a little like an oncologist taking chemotherapy off the table before she's even got your test results back."

Other lawmakers who have called for impeachment looked at Pelosi's comments more practically. Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., who filed articles of impeachment against Trump on the first day of the new Congress in January, acknowledged that there is not yet public support for impeachment, but noted that Pelosi "didn't say 'I am against it if the public is clamoring for it.'"

Sherman said that the multiple Democratic investigations of Trump might be a substitute for impeachment, "it's also possible it will be a prelude."

ACROSS THE NATION

Agents seize $77M of cocaine at New York-area port

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Customs agents have seized the biggest shipment of cocaine recovered at the ports of New York and New Jersey in 25 years. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 3,200 pounds of the drug in 60 packages were seized at Port New York/Newark on Feb. 28. The street value is estimated at $77 million. It's the biggest cocaine seizure at the ports since 1994. A Customs spokesman says the container was recovered from a ship that originated in South America. Customs officers turned the drugs over to federal Homeland Security officials for investigation. (AP)

9-year-old Los Angeles area girl found in duffel bag ID'd

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators have identified a Los Angeles-area girl found dead in a duffel bag along a suburban equestrian trail, and two people have been detained in connection with the case. The coroner's office determined the girl was 9-year-old Trinity Love Jones and ruled her death a homicide, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said late Sunday. The department has declined to say how Trinity was killed and a department spokeswoman on Monday declined to identify the people who've been detained. They're considered persons of interest. The department plans to release additional details later in the week. On March 5, a park worker found Trinity's body partially protruding from a duffel bag at the bottom of an embankment in Hacienda Heights, just southeast of Los Angeles. Investigators believe her body was there less than 48 hours.

Mom arrested after 2 of her 3 children drown in locked SUV

LELAND, Miss. (AP)—A 25-year-old Mississippi woman has been arrested after two of her three children drowned when she left them in a locked car and it rolled into a creek, authorities said Monday. The Clarion-Ledger reports Leland police charged Jenea Monique Payne on Monday with two counts of negligent homicide and one of child neglect after the weekend deaths. Payne told investigators she left the children for five or 10 minutes while she went into a convenience store on Saturday. Two-year-old Raelynn Johnson was rescued that day as Payne's SUV floated downstream. Four-year-old Steve Smith and 1-year-old Rasheed Johnson Jr. drowned in the vehicle, authorities said. Leland Police Chief Marcus Davis said Payne left the keys in the vehicle. Davis said investigators believe the 4-year-old put the keys in the ignition, turned the car on and put it in neutral, causing it to roll into the creek.

Feds accuse vice officer of forcing women into sex

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A longtime police officer forced women to have sex with him under threat of an arrest, pressured others to help cover up crimes, and lied to federal investigators when he said he'd never had sex with prostitutes, according to charges unveiled Monday.

Columbus vice squad Officer Andrew Mitchell, 55, was arrested Monday and faces a detention hearing this week. He is charged with witness tampering, obstruction of justice, making a false statement to federal investigators, and deprivation of rights under color of law, the language used to describe crimes committed by police officers while on duty.

A federal indictment accused Mitchell, a 30-year veteran, of arresting two different women and forcing them to have sex before he would release them.

Later, during the federal investigation, Mitchell lied when he told the FBI he'd never had sex with a prostitute, since Mitchell knew "he has had sex with numerous prostitutes, including having paid women money for sex," according to the indictment.

Committing the alleged crimes while on duty is "a nightmarish breach of trust," said Ben Glassman, the U.S. attorney for the southern half of Ohio.

"We rely on the police to serve and protect us, and when you have a police officer who commits a crime, that is a very serious breach of trust," he said.

Police officers take an oath to the constitution and promise to obey federal, state and local laws, said Thomas Quinlan, interim Columbus police chief.

"The community has every right to be disgusted by the news, as well as everyone who wears this badge," he said.

Mitchell plans to fight the charges and enter a not guilty plea, his attorney said Monday.

"These allegations are unfounded, and my client is going to exercise his right to a jury trial in the federal system," Collins said. His understanding, he said, is that the alleged victims named in the indictment were prostitutes.

Mitchell has also been investigated by state authorities after police said he fatally shot a woman who stabbed him in the hand while sitting in his unmarked police car. Donna Castleberry, 23, had struggled with drugs and was likely working the streets as a prostitute, her family has said. She left behind two young daughters.

"Our family has been asking questions for a long time," said Mary Laile, a cousin to Castleberry. "We miss her everyday and days like today feel like a success, but then we remember that we still do not have Donna with us, so it's hard to really view it as a successful day."

Asia

US envoy: NKorea denuclearization must not be incremental

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration will insist North Korea follow through on its commitment to completely eliminate its nuclear weapons before the U.S. agrees to the lifting of international sanctions, the State Department's special envoy for North Korea said Monday.

In his first public comments since President Donald Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month, envoy Stephen Biegun said "the missing variable" in making a deal is the North's unwillingness to offer complete, verifiable denuclearization.

"We are not going to do denuclearization incrementally," Biegun said at a conference sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He said there is room for "confidence-building" measures, such as a proposed establishment of a U.S. diplomatic liaison office in North Korea, to advance the process. But the U.S. will not agree to a step-by-step approach to eliminating the nuclear weapons, he said.

Biegun said that at last month's Hanoi summit, Trump rejected Kim's offer to eliminate a portion of his nuclear program in exchange for lifting "basically all" of the international sanctions. That was judged to be unacceptable, Biegun said, because it would have removed economic pressure that had been imposed by the international community.

Under the Kim proposal, "We'd lift that pressure in exchange for only a portion of those weapons of mass destruction programs," Biegun said. "That would have put us in a position—a very difficult position—of essentially subsidizing what would potentially be ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction in North Korea. We need a total solution."

He said this does not mean the U.S. position has hardened. He said Washington remains open to further North Korea diplomacy aimed at four priorities: transforming relations, establishing a formal end to the Korean War, achieving the North's complete denuclearization, and returning the remains of thousands of U.S. troops missing from the Korean War.

Last August, North Korea turned over 55 boxes of war remains; so far the U.S. has identified three soldiers from those remains and is expecting to announce several more soon.

"We want to heal the wounds of war," Biegun said. "We want to recover the remains of soldiers very much for the same reasons that helped us normalize relations in other places like Vietnam at the end of the conflict."

AP

This satellite image captured on Feb. 22, 2019 and provided by DigitalGlobe, shows Sanumdong research center on the outskirts of Pyongyang, North Korea.

3 Philippine priests say they, Catholic bishops under threat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three Philippine Catholic priests said Monday they and some church leaders who are critical of the president's bloody crackdown on illegal drugs have received death threats from unknown people.

Father Robert Reyes and two other priests told reporters that they are hesitant to seek protection from the police because they are behind the anti-drug campaign that has left thousands of mostly poor drug suspects dead, but are considering seeking court protection.

The three vowed they would not stop speaking out against the drug killings, which have been condemned by many Western governments and human rights groups and sparked at least two complaints of mass murder against President Rodrigo Duterte at the International Criminal Court.

Duterte, a former prosecutor and mayor known for his tough anti-crime approach, has denied ordering extrajudicial killings but often publicly threatens drug suspects with death and encourages police to shoot those who threaten law enforcers.

"We're not safe now," said Reyes, an activist priest prominent for running long distances to publicize campaigns for human rights, democracy and civil liberties. "After this, the death threats may become real."

Another of the priests, Albert Alejo, said the cellphone messages included one on Feb. 10 that said, "Your days are numbered you animal."

"You'll be celebrating your last Masses because the next Mass for the dead will be for you," the priests quoted another message as saying.

Reyes said the killings of three priests, including one who was about to celebrate Mass, and threats against several bishops and priests underscore the alarming number of attacks on the clergy under Duterte. He said there is no evidence linking Duterte to the threats but that the president's verbal assaults against church officials could encourage attacks.

"The deadly words of Duterte against Catholics are like a dagger pointed at us," Reyes said. "The message is clear. It's not only people that he wanted dead but our faith as well."

Duterte's unprecedented broadsides against the Catholic Church, which has criticized the drug killings, have put the influential institution that helped lead two "people power" revolts against two past presidents in a quandary over how to respond. Opinion polls show Duterte has remained popular despite his attacks on the church.

He once called Pope Francis a "son of a bitch" for sparking a huge traffic jam in Manila during a visit and regularly lashes out at Catholic bishops over sex abuses by the clergy. Duterte mocks the Catholic faith and sparked anger in the country, Asia's largest Catholic-majority nation, by calling God "stupid."

UN says methamphetamine output booming in SE Asia

BANGKOK (AP)—Production of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding, the U.N.'s anti-drug agency said Monday.

Even as seizures of the drug known as speed, ice and "ya ba" in its various forms reached a record high last year, street prices have dropped, indicating increased availability, said a report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The agency said methamphetamine has become the main drug of concern in 12 out of 13 East and Southeast Asian countries, up from five a decade ago. The only exception was Vietnam, where heroin is considered the major problem.

In Thailand alone, 515 million methamphetamine tablets were seized in 2018, 17 times the total amount of the drug seized a decade ago in all 13 countries combined, the U.N. agency said. Much of the supply comes from neighboring Myanmar.

"Data on seizures, prices, use and treatment all point to continuing expansion of the methamphetamine market in East and Southeast Asia," said Tun Nay Soe, the agency's inter-regional program coordinator.

The report warns that organized crime groups in the region have stepped up their involvement in making and trafficking methamphetamine and other drugs in the Golden Triangle, the region where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet that has historically been a major source of opium and heroin.

It said the drug market in East and South-East Asia had shifted from such opiates to methamphetamine since the latter part of the 2000s.

"The shift to methamphetamine has affected even countries traditionally known to have a relatively large market for heroin, such as China and Malaysia," it said. "In Malaysia, the number of methamphetamine users detected by law enforcement authorities surpassed that of heroin users for the first time in 2017."

In another indicator of the methamphetamine epidemic, medical treatment related to its use dominated the number of drug-related admissions in several East and Southeast Asian countries, the report said.

The drug agency warned that other synthetic drugs were also gaining traction in Asian markets.

"Potent synthetic opioids (e.g. fentanyl), implicated in fatalities in other parts of the world, are being identified by some countries in the region," it said. Fentanyl is one of a number of opioids responsible for growing deaths of drug users in the United States.

"Aside from methamphetamine which is getting most of the attention because of the surge in seizures and street price drops, synthetic opioids and other drugs have also been found across the region," said Jeremy Douglas, UNODC regional representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

World

Ethiopian crash victims were aid workers, doctors, academics

They worked to bring food to the hungry, medicine to the sick and clean water to people living in areas without it. Among the 157 people who died in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner Sunday were dozens of international aid workers hailing from several countries in Africa and around the globe.

Described as dedicated and impassioned employees of nonprofit environmental, immigration and refugee organizations, they lost their lives alongside pastors, professors, ambassadors, police chiefs and respected writers and sports leaders. All were on board the Boeing 737 Max 8 jetliner when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, en route to Nairobi, Kenya.

At least five Ethiopian nationals who worked for aid agencies died in the crash. Save the Children mourned the loss of Tamirat Mulu Demessie, a technical adviser on child protection in emergencies who "worked tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable children are safe during humanitarian crises," the group said in a statement. Catholic Relief Services lost four Ethiopian staff members who had worked with the organization for as long as a decade. The four were traveling to Nairobi for training, the group said.

Immaculate Odero of Kenya, who served as CARE's regional security officer for the Horn of Africa, was "dedicated to keeping her colleagues in the region safe," and took on her role "with great enthusiasm," the agency said.

The Red Cross; The United Nations' World Food Program; the International Committee for the Development of Peoples; the World Council of Churches; and Civil Rights Defenders, an international human rights group based in Stockholm, were among other humanitarian and cultural groups reporting losses. A family of six from Canada, African expatriates visiting families back home and tourists were also among the victims, who hailed from 35 countries.

Kenya lost 32 people, more than any country. Relatives of 25 of the victims had been contacted, Transport Minister James Macharia said. "They are in shock like we are," he said. "They are grieving."

Both Addis Ababa and Nairobi are major hubs for humanitarian workers, and some had been on their way to a large U.N. environmental conference set to begin Monday in Nairobi. At least 21 staff members from the United Nations were killed in the crash, said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who led a moment of silence at a meeting. "A global tragedy has hit close to home," Guterres said.

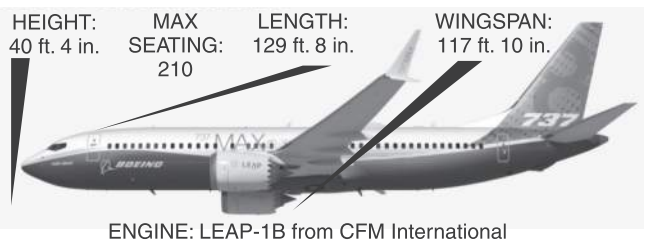
Irishman Michael Ryan was among the seven dead from the Food Program. The Rome-based aid worker and engineer known as Mick was formerly from Lahinch, County Clare, in Ireland's west. His projects included creating safe conditions for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and assessing the damage to rural roads in Nepal that were blocked by landslides. ***(AP)***

AP

Rescuers work at the scene of an Ethiopian Airlines flight crash near Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Monday, March 11, 2019.

Boeing 737 Max 8 in second crash

A plane in bound from Addis Ababa to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, crashed six minutes after take off, killing all 157 people on board. This is the second crash in five months involving a 737 Max 8, and comparisons are being made to the Lion Air accident in Indonesia last October that killed 189 people.



ENGINE: LEAP-1B from CFM International

Source: Boeing, AP, BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Chaos spreads in Venezuela after days without power

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelans on Monday converged on a polluted river in Caracas to fill water bottles and held scattered protests in several cities as growing chaos took hold in a country whose people have had little power, water and communications for days.

A 3-year-old girl with a brain tumor languished in a Caracas hospital, awaiting treatment after doctors started surgery but then suspended the operation when nationwide power outages first hit on Thursday, said the girl's fearful mother, who only gave her first name, Yalimar.

"The doctors told me that there are no miracles," said Yalimar, who hopes her daughter can be transferred Tuesday to one of the few hospitals in Venezuela that would be able to finish the complex procedure.

The girl's story highlighted an unfolding horror in Venezuela, where years of hardship got abruptly worse after the power grid collapsed. On Monday, schools and businesses were closed, long lines of cars waited at the few gasoline stations with electricity and hospitals cared for many patients without power. Generators have alleviated conditions for some of the critically ill.

Late Monday, President Nicolas Maduro said on national television that progress had been made in restoring power in Venezuela. He also said two people who were allegedly trying to sabotage power facilities were captured and were providing information to authorities, though he gave no details.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido and his chief ally, the United States, say Maduro's claims that the U.S. sabotaged the power grid with a "cyberattack" are an attempt to divert attention from the government's own failings.

There have been acts of kindness during Venezuela's crisis: People whose food would rot in fridges without power donated it to a restaurant, which cooked it for distribution to charitable foundations and hospitals.

The blackouts have also hit the oil industry. The country hasn't shipped $358 million in oil since the power failures started, and "the whole system is grinding to a halt," said Russ Dallen, a Miami-based partner at the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets.

Two large tankers are sitting empty at the Jose offshore oil-loading dock, and at least 19 other ships are waiting their turns there, Dallen said.

Engineers have restored power in some parts of Venezuela, but it often goes out again. There have been a few protests in Caracas and reports of similar anti-government anger elsewhere. Guaido tweeted about reports of looting in some cities, but details were difficult to confirm.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran's Rouhani seeks to boost ties on first visit to Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was in Baghdad on Monday, making his first official visit to the nation that Tehran once fought a bloody war against and later backed in the battle with the Islamic State group. Since Rouhani's election in 2013, Iraq has relied on Iranian paramilitary support to fight IS, following the militant group's capture of the Iraqi city of Mosul and other territory in both Iraq and Syria. Now with the militants facing a final territorial defeat in the Syrian village of Baghouz, Iran is looking for Iraq's continued support as it faces a maximalist pressure campaign by President Donald Trump after his decision to withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Rouhani, who is accompanied on the three-day visit by a high-ranking political and economic delegation, was received by an honor guard on landing in Baghdad, where he was welcomed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Al-Hakim. Rouhani then visited the shrine of Imam Kadhim, the seventh of 12 clerics revered by Shiites worldwide. Rouhani, a Shiite cleric himself, paused to reach out and touch the gate surrounding the imam's tomb.

US senator vows to seek recognition of Israeli rule in Golan

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham on Monday vowed to push for U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, in what would represent a new contentious political gift to Israel from the Trump administration. The South Carolina Republican said he aimed to change the current U.S.-designation of the Golan, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967, as disputed territory. He spoke during a tour of the frontier with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The Golan is not disputed. It is in the hands of Israel and will always remain in the hands of Israel," Graham said from a cliff overlooking Syria, where Syrian flags could be seen fluttering in the distance on buildings damaged in the country's civil war. "My goal is to try to explain this to the administration," he said. In past negotiations, Syria has demanded a withdrawal from the Golan as part of any peace deal. With Syria ravaged by a nearly eight-year-old civil war, peace talks with Israel seem unlikely anytime soon.

French tycoon on trial over $450M arbitration deal

PARIS (AP)—French tycoon Bernard Tapie is facing a criminal trial over a fraudulent 404 million-euro ($450 million today) arbitration package linked to his sale of sportswear company Adidas in the 1990s. Civil courts have already ruled the unusually generous 2008 award was the result of fraud and ordered Tapie to refund the money. Tapie and five others are in court in Paris starting Monday in a trial that will determine whether they also face criminal penalties. Tapie told French media he would suspend his treatment for stomach cancer to fight the accusations. The payout to Tapie came from state funds, prompting public indignation and questions as to whether he benefited from political connections, including with then-President Nicolas Sarkozy. Tapie is a former TV star who once owned the Marseille soccer team.

Focus

Sex abuse convictions of Australia cardinal prove polarizing

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The most senior Catholic to be convicted of child sex abuse will be sentenced to prison on Wednesday in an Australia landmark case that has polarized observers. Some described the prosecution as proof the church is no longer above the law, while others suspect Cardinal George Pell has been made a scapegoat for the church's sins.

Pope Francis' former finance minister, who had been described as the third-highest ranking Catholic in the Vatican, has spent two weeks in a Melbourne remand jail cell since a sentencing hearing in the Victoria state County Court on Feb. 27 in which his lawyers conceded the 77-year-old must spend time behind bars.

Pell had been convicted in December of orally raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and the boy's 13-year-old friend in the late 1990s, months after Pell became archbishop of Melbourne and initiated a compensation scheme for victims of clergy sexual abuse. A court order had prohibited media from reporting on the verdict until two weeks ago, when prosecutors abandoned a second trial on charges that Pell had groped two boys in a public swimming pool in the 1970s.

Chief Judge Peter Kidd will sentence Pell on five convictions, each carrying a potential 10-year maximum sentence. The sentences for each conviction are likely to be served concurrently.

Pell's sentence will also reflect court standards of two decades ago when his crimes were committed. In those days, judges placed less weight on the damage done to children by sexual abuse.

In an unusual move for an Australian court that acknowledges intense international interest in the case, the judge will allow his sentencing remarks to be broadcast on live television.

After centuries of impunity, cardinals from Australia to Chile and points in between are facing justice in both the Vatican and government courts for their own sexual misdeeds or for having shielded abusers under their watch.

Last week, France's senior Catholic cleric, Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, was convicted of failing to report a known pedophile priest to police. Barbarin was given a six-month suspended sentence.

Pope Francis last month defrocked the onetime leader of the American church after an internal investigation determined Cardinal Theodore McCarrick sexually molested children and adult men. It was the first time a cardinal had been defrocked over the child abuse scandal.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2019, photo, Cardinal George Pell arrives at the County Court in Melbourne, Australia. A man who alleges he was sexually molested by Pell as a boy in the 1970s sued the disgraced cardinal in an Australian court Thursday, March 7, 2019. The 50-year-old alleges in the filing lodged in the Victoria state Supreme Court that he was a victim of physical and sexual abuse while in the care of St. Joseph's Boys Home in Pell's hometown of Ballarat between 1974 and 1978.

Pell has denied any wrongdoing and will appeal his convictions on the Victoria Court of Appeal on June 5. His lawyers canceled an application to keep him free on bail before then.

The appeal grounds include that the "verdicts are unreasonable and cannot be supported" by the evidence of more than 20 witnesses who testified, including clerics, choristers and altar servers.

"It was not open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt on the word of the complainant alone," the filings said.

That view has been expressed in some sections of the media.

"Pell was found guilty beyond reasonable doubt on the uncorroborated evidence of one witness, without forensic evidence, a pattern of behavior or a confession," veteran crime reporter John Silvester wrote in Melbourne's The Age newspaper.

"Pell has become a lightning rod on the worldwide storm of anger at a systemic cover-up of priestly abuses. But that doesn't make him a child molester," Silvester added.

An Australian academic who wrote an opinion piece describing Pell's "accusers" as "wicked" last week apologized for the article, which was published in a Catholic monthly newspaper that was later pulled by the church.

"Pell is a tough man and he will, by the grace of God, survive the wickedness of his accusers and the silence of many who should defend him but won't," Tasmania University think-tank director David Daintree wrote in the Tasmania-based Catholic Standard newspaper.

In his written apology issued by the Hobart Archdiocese, Daintree said: "It was never my intention to cast doubt on survivors."

Sky News Live, an Australian cable and satellite television station, protected advertisers' reputations by removing all ads from prominent conservative commentator Andrew Bolt's nightly program after he flagged he would be venting his own misgivings about the verdict.

"Pell could well be an innocent man who is being made to pay for the sins of his church and made to pay after an astonishing campaign of media vilification," Bolt said.

The judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer repeatedly told both Pell's juries that they must not make Pell a scapegoat for the church. The first trial ended in a deadlocked jury and the second jury delivered unanimous guilty verdicts.

Judge Kidd told the sentencing hearing last month: "The Catholic Church is not on trial ... I'm imposing sentence on Cardinal Pell for what he did."

Pell is guilty as charged in the eyes of many who have been quick to distance themselves from the cardinal since the convictions were made public. Melbourne's Richmond Football Club quickly dropped Pell as the Australian Rules Football team's honorary ambassador. Pell was contracted to the club as a budding professional footballer in 1959 before he joined the priesthood.

The prestigious Catholic school where Pell was educated in his hometown of Ballarat, St. Patrick's College, announced that a building named after him would be renamed and Pell would be removed from the school honor board.

"The jury's verdict demonstrates that Cardinal Pell's behaviors have not met the standards we expect of those we honor as role models for the young men we educate," headmaster John Crowley explained.

But the Australian Catholic University said its Pell Center at its Ballarat campus would not be renamed until the appeal process was completed, angering academic staff.

The university's president Greg Craven and former Prime Minister John Howard are among 10 prominent Australians whose character references were submitted to Kidd to take into consideration when deciding an appropriate sentence.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher told a congregation on the first Sunday after the convictions were made public that they should withhold judgment on Pell until the appeal.

"If we are too quick to judge, we can end up joining the demonisers or the apologists, those baying for blood or those in denial," Fisher said.

Fisher, a former lawyer, holds the church post in Australia's largest city that Pell held before he was elevated to the Vatican.

In the Vatican, Pell is facing a church investigation that could lead to his removal from the priesthood.

When Australian Archbishop Philip Wilson last year became the most senior Catholic cleric ever found guilty of covering up child sex abuse, he initially refused to resign pending an appeal.

But Wilson quit two months later after then-Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull called on Pope Francis to fire him. Wilson's conviction was eventually quashed on appeal in December, but he has not been reinstated to his former role.

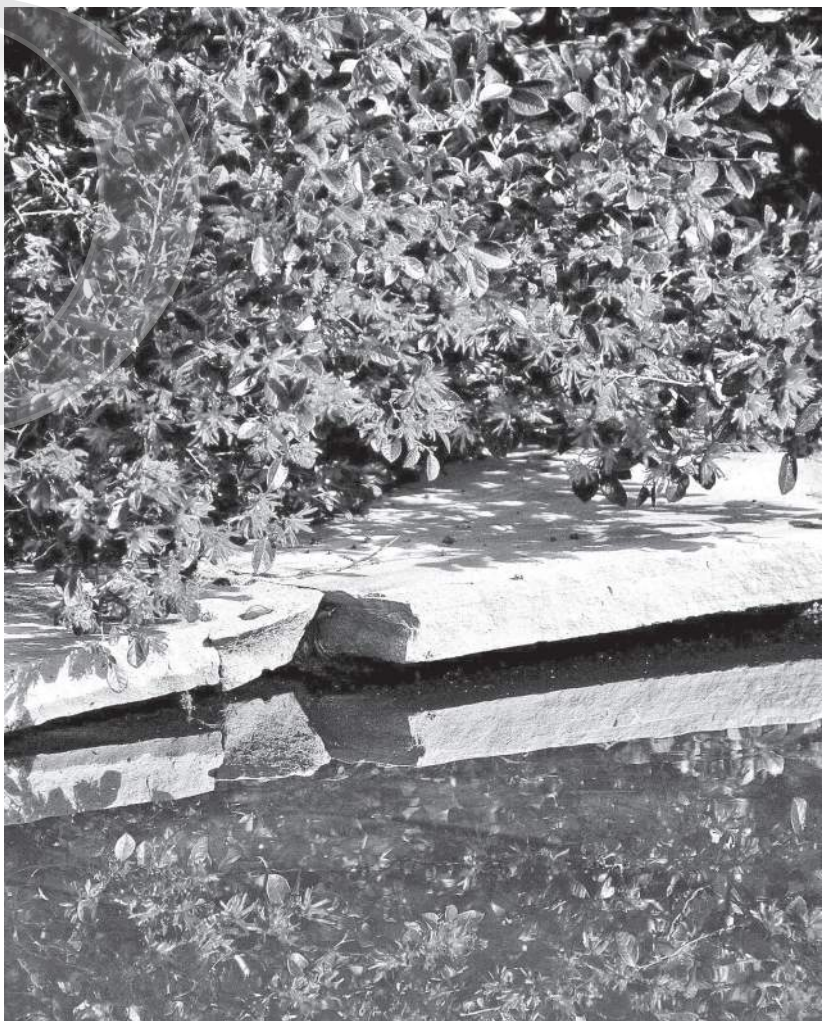
Current Prime Minister Scott Morrison is willing to hold off acting on Pell until his appeal is settled. A petition with more than 100,000 signatures has called for Pell to be stripped of an Australian honor awarded in 2005 for his service to the church, education and social justice.

"I was appalled and shocked," Morrison said of the convictions. "I think any Australian would be to read of those events, but it shows that no one is above the law in this country."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: This loropetalum will make you a daydream believer

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



TNS

Purple Diamond is seen here reflecting in the water at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens.

TNS

The Purple Diamond loropetalum reaches 5 feet in height and produces iridescent pink blooms.

Purple Daydream will capture your heart and probably make you forget all other varieties of loropetalum. I'm growing it with October Magic orchid camellias, Autumn Jewel azaleas and Gold Mound chamaecyapris and its graceful and elegant habit just screams "look at me."

Purple Daydream reaches about 3-feet tall with a slightly pendulous spread to 3- to 4-feet wide. The deep purple foliage is ever present and, of course, loads up with a bounty of iridescent purple flowers in the spring repeating throughout the year.

I remember 18-years ago as a horticulturist with Mississippi State University where we selected Burgundy as a Mississippi Medallion Award Winner. While this variety was superior at the time it longed to reach 12-feet in height.

While I was at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden in Savannah, I also fell head-over-heels for Purple Diamond loropetalum that is semi-dwarf pushing to 5-feet. Whether it was flanking a bridge or reflecting at the Water Garden it was a show stopper. Dark purple foliage and hot pink flowers demanded visitors get out their cameras.

Consequently, when Red Diamond hit the market I had to have it for my own landscape. It will reach a little taller pushing to 6-feet but has darker leaves and what I might call hot lipstick red flowers. It will electrify the garden.

Botanically speaking they are all known as loropetalum chinense with a lot of gardeners knowing them as Chinese fringe flower. These selections are all part of the Southern Living Plant Collection and are really what gardeners and landscaper want versus those that reach skyscraper status. It was always hilarious to see visitors faces when they saw a burgundy loropetalum the size of a tall redbud at the gardens.

If you need a selection even shorter or for an ornate container, then Purple Pixie is the choice for you. To be honest, if it never bloomed, I would still love it for its habit and texture. It is remarkable however in a large European style container where its dark purple foliage tumbles over the edge. It reaches about 2-feet in height with a spread of 4-feet. So, while in a container you may want to do a little tip pruning rest assured in the landscape it is a superb groundcover.

The Purple Daydream loropetalum has dark year round foliage and reaches 3-feet tall and up to 4-feet wide. TNS

All of these are cold-hardy from zones 7-10, meaning they can take zero. Those of you plagued by deer will be delighted to know these are not on the menu. No matter what loropetalum you choose, they perform best in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. Plant them in well-drained, organic-rich beds that are slightly acidic. I like to emphasize the part about planting in beds. When planting loropetalums, or any other shrub, put them in a well-prepared bed instead of sticking them in a patch of turf. Like we suggest with azaleas, plant then high, -1 to -2 inches above the soil surface.

In the spring landscape consider planting them with white blooming trees like Yoshino cherries, or dogwoods and with informal drifts of daffodils. Obviously, they would be great in informal clusters with white, purple or pink azaleas. I love them with yellow to gold shrubs like Sunshine Ligustrum and Gold Mound chamaecyparis. You are the artist, let your imagination run wild.

Life & Style

MMA fighter Conor McGregor arrested in S. Florida

MIAMI (AP)—Mixed martial artist and boxer Conor McGregor has been arrested in South Florida for stealing the cellphone of someone who was trying to take his photo, authorities said.

According to a Miami Beach police report, the 30-year-old McGregor was arrested Monday afternoon and charged with robbery and criminal mischief. An attorney for McGregor called the altercation "minor" and said the popular fighter would cooperate with authorities.

McGregor

McGregor was leaving the Fontainebleau Miami Beach shortly after 5 a.m. Monday when a 22-year-old man attempted to take a picture of McGregor, the police report said. Police said McGregor slapped the phone out of the man's hand and then stomped on it several times. McGregor then grabbed the phone and left the area, the report said. Police later found McGregor at his local address.

McGregor was released Monday night after posting $12,500 bond.

"Last evening Conor McGregor was involved in a minor altercation involving a cellphone that resulted in a call to law enforcement," Samuel J. Rabin Jr., a Miami-based attorney representing McGregor, said in a statement. "Mr. McGregor appreciates the response of law enforcement and pledges his full cooperation."

McGregor, who's from Ireland, is the former UFC featherweight and lightweight champion and one of the biggest draws in MMA. He returned to UFC last fall after a hiatus during which he made his boxing debut, a loss to Floyd Mayweather. He was suspended from UFC for six months and fined $50,000 for a brawl after his loss to Khabib Nurmagomedov in October.

Wonder Woman to the rescue: Gal Gadot takes on Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (AP)—Wonder Woman star Gal Gadot has come to the rescue of a fellow Israeli celebrity in a spat with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gadot, who typically shies away from politics, is rallying behind Rotem Sela, one of Israel's top models and TV hosts, who drew fire from Netanyahu for criticizing his fearmongering election campaign against the country's Arab minority.

Sela's rebuke of Netanyahu, and her call for equality for all Israeli citizens in an Instagram post, prompted the prime minister to take to social media himself and lecture her that "Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, and of it alone."

Gadot responded late Sunday with her own supportive post for Sela to her more than 28 million followers on Instagram:

"Love thy neighbor as yourself. This isn't an issue of right or left. Jew or Arab. Secular or religious. It's an issue of dialogue," Gadot wrote. "Rotem, my sister, you're an inspiration to us all."

Netanyahu, who is in a tight race for re-election, has tried to rally his religious and nationalist base with charged accusations that his challengers will form a coalition government with Arab political parties. The strategy has drawn charges of incitement from Arab leaders and other political opponents. Arab parties have never sat in a governing coalition.

Over the weekend, Culture Minister Miri Regev, a Netanyahu surrogate in the ruling Likud Party, repeated his mantra in a television interview. Sela, best known in Israel for hosting a pair of popular reality shows, was watching at home and responded angrily.

Gadot

"What's the problem with the Arabs? Good heavens, there are also Arab citizens in this country," she wrote to her hundreds of thousands of followers on Instagram. "When the hell will somebody in the government tell the public that Israel is a state of all its citizens and that all people are born equal?"

Netanyahu, who has a team of young tech-savvy assistants devoted to his social media outreach, quickly responded by correcting Sela that his government had passed a law enshrining Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. He followed up the next day with another shot at the beginning of his weekly Cabinet meeting.

"I would like to clarify a point that, apparently, is not clear to slightly confused people in the Israeli public," he said. Israel "is the national state, not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people," he said.

Sela, whose account was quickly bombarded with nasty comments, vowed to keep speaking up, wishing for a leadership that "gives real hope for peace, equality and love instead of incitement and divisiveness."

While Israeli entertainers, like their American counterparts, have reputations for holding liberal views, they have generally been wary of expressing themselves politically in recent years for fear of harming themselves commercially.

Many performers rely on government grants and municipal contracts, so taking an unpopular stance could cost them financially. Netanyahu has previously seized on controversial comments during election periods to bunch such entertainers together with the media and other "elites" to galvanize his traditional, working-class base.

In the current campaign, he has taken aim at Israeli Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of Israel's nearly 9 million citizens. He has zoned in especially on prominent Arab lawmaker Ahmad Tibi and, using his own nickname, saying the election has come down to "Bibi or Tibi."

Arabs hold full citizenship rights, and Netanyahu has allocated considerable budgets to their communities to try to close wide economic gaps. But they are also frequently discriminated against, and come election time have become a convenient boogeyman for Netanyahu. Israeli hardliners accuse Arab citizens of being disloyal for sympathizing with their Palestinian brethren and with enemies elsewhere in the Arab world.

Facing a possible loss in the last election in 2015, Netanyahu helped turn the tide with a midday video in which he warned his supporters that Arab voters were heading "in droves" to the polls. Though he later apologized, Netanyahu and his allies appear to be deploying the same tactic this time around.

"Recently, we are being exposed to an unacceptable discourse toward Israel's Arab citizens," Israel's ceremonial president, Reuven Rivlin, said Monday. "There are no second-class citizens and there are no second-class voters. At the ballot box we are all equal, Jews and Arabs."

Tibi tweeted that for Sela's stance to be considered brave indicated the "dark times we live in." Regardless, the 35-year-old secular Jewish woman from Tel Aviv has become their unlikely champion.

"In Israel 2019, to say that the meaning of democracy is a state for all its citizens and that Arabs need to be full citizens—yes, that demands great courage," tweeted Ayman Odeh, head of the joint Arab-Jewish Hadash party. "Rotem Sela, we don't know each other, but well done."

Minnesota politician thanks Fox for condemning Jeanine Pirro

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar thanked Fox News on Monday for condemning comments made on the network by weekend host Jeanine Pirro centering on the freshman Democrat's wearing of a traditional Muslim head covering.

Fox said it "strongly condemned" Pirro's Saturday night commentary and said it had addressed the matter with her. Pirro did not apologize.

On her show, Pirro noted that the Minnesota representative wears a hijab in apparent conformity to a directive in the Quran. "Is her adherence to this Islamic doctrine indicative of her adherence to Sharia law, which is in itself antithetical to the U.S. Constitution?" she asked.

In its condemnation, Fox said Pirro's views "do not reflect those of the network and we have addressed the matter with her directly."

This combination photo shows Fox News host Jeanine Pirro at the HBO Documentary Series premiere of "THE JINX: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst" in New York on Jan. 28, 2015, left, and Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., at a rally outside the Capitol in Washington on March 8, 2019. AP

Omar, in a tweet, thanked Fox for the statement, saying no one should question a person's commitment to the Constitution because of a person's faith or country of origin. Omar is a Somali immigrant.

Omar has been in the news because of her own comments that some have judged to be anti-Semitic, leading to a debate over how Democrats should publicly address her views.

Pirro, in her own statement, said she did not call Omar un-American.

"My intention was to ask a question and start a debate, but of course because one is a Muslim does not mean you don't support the Constitution," she said, adding she invited Omar to come on her show.

Pirro was called out on Twitter by a fellow Fox News Channel employee who is Muslim. The employee, Hufia Kumal, works on Bret Baier's news show.

She wrote: "Can you stop spreading this false narrative that somehow Muslims hate America or women who wear a hijab aren't American enough? You have Muslims working at the same network you do, including myself."

It was not immediately clear what Fox had done in addressing the matter with Pirro, the former district attorney from New York's Westchester County who is a particular favorite of President Donald Trump.

Fox News' chief executive, Suzanne Scott, had reportedly scolded producers of the network's shows last year, encouraging them to run a tighter ship in terms of incendiary comments.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Moviegoers gets to see 'Captain Marvel' in the flesh

CLIFTON, N.J. (AP)—Moviegoers in New Jersey got a surprise visit over the weekend from a super-hero. Actress Brie Larson, star of "Captain Marvel," appeared at a movie theater Saturday night in Clifton, New Jersey, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of New York. The North Jersey Record reports theater patrons at the AMC Theater initially didn't seem to notice Larson, who was dressed in a Captain Marvel sweat suit. But soon her appearance caused a stir, and numerous photos posted online showed her posing with fans and even serving popcorn from a concession stand. Marvel Studios' first female-fronted superhero movie became one of the biggest blockbusters ever led by a woman during its historic opening weekend , according to studio estimates Sunday.

Woodstock '69 artifacts headed to museum 50 years later

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP)—A bass guitar and handwritten song lyrics will be among the artifacts related to the original Woodstock concert heading to a museum for display. The museum at the site of the concert in upstate New York says it will open for the 2019 season on March 30 with an exhibit marking the concert's 50th anniversary. The Museum at Bethel Woods says the exhibit will include instruments, clothing, equipment, art and photography. Highlights include a bass guitar and a tunic from Jack Casady of Jefferson Airplane and handwritten lyrics for "Goin' Up the Country" by Alan Wilson of Canned Heat. The famous three-day concert kicked off Aug. 15, 1969, in Bethel, New York.

Habitat for Humanity CEO writing book on 7 virtues

NEW YORK (AP)—The CEO of Habitat for Humanity International is writing a book, which will include a foreword by former President Jimmy Carter. Jonathan Reckford's "Our Better Angels: Seven Simple Virtues That Will Change Your Life and the World" will come out Oct. 8, St. Martin's Essentials announced Monday. The book is divided into seven chapters for each virtue—kindness, generosity, community, empowerment, respect, joy and service. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1976 and has helped build millions of homes around the world. Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter are among its most famous volunteers. Reckford, CEO since 2005, says in a statement he hoped the stories of those involved with Habitat for Humanity would inspire readers in their own lives.

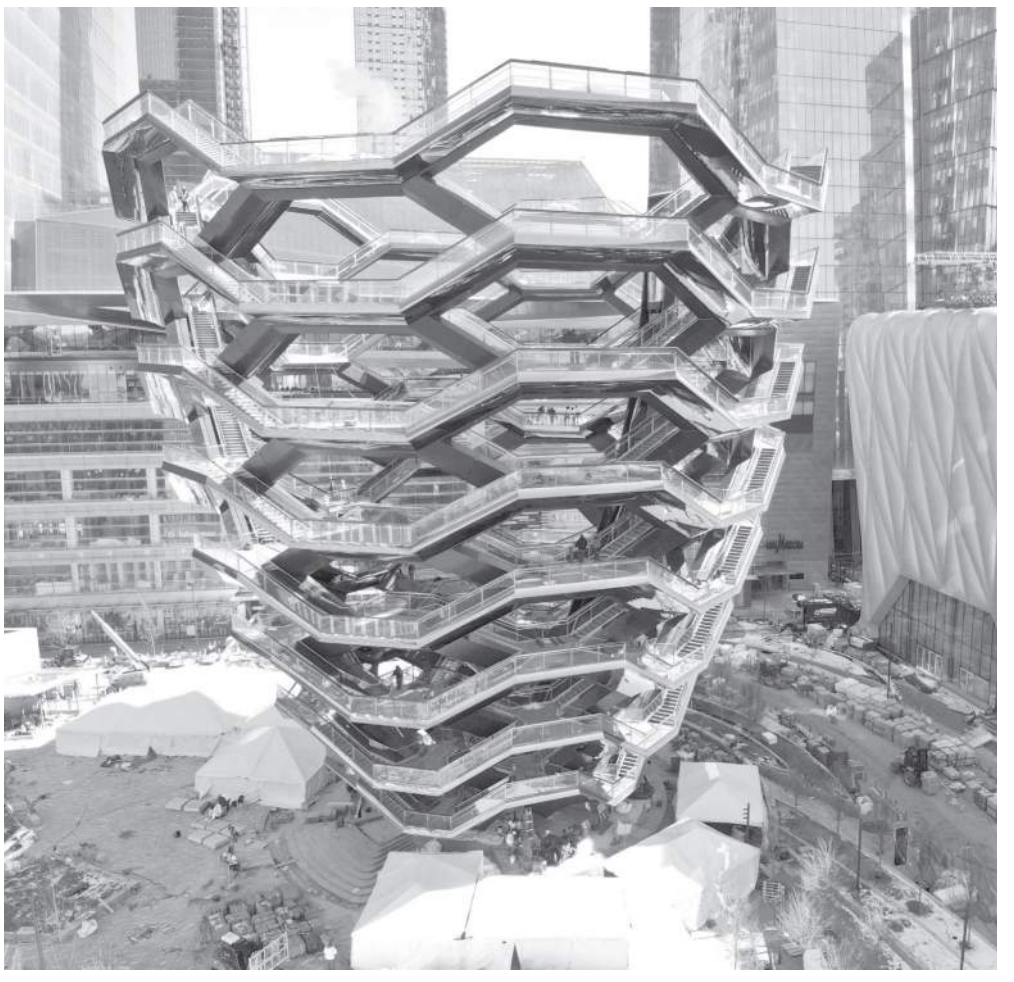
Feel like climbing 2,500 steps? Head to new NYC sculpture

NEW YORK (AP)—A colossal sculpture that will give people more than 150 interconnected stairways to climb is opening to the public as part of New York City's Hudson Yards development.

Vessel is a metal structure shaped like the bowl of a wine glass that will open Friday as part of the first phase of the project on Manhattan's west side.

Vessel was created by British designer Thomas Heatherwick. The latticed network of stairs and platforms rises 150 feet high and includes almost 2,500 steps.

The $25 billion Hudson Yards development is in progress and includes a hotel, a school, a retail mall, restaurants, public plazas and a skyscraper taller than the Empire State Building.



AP

This March 5, 2019, photo taken with a drone shows "Vessel," a 150-foot-tall structure of climbable interlocking staircases, that is the center point of the $25 billion Hudson Yards Redevelopment in New York. The climbable structure opens to the public on Friday.

A private gift from Joni Mitchell will soon be a book

NEW YORK (AP)—A private gift from Joni Mitchell will arrive in bookstores this fall.

"Morning Glory On the Vine: Early Songs and Drawings" will be published Oct. 22, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Monday. The book collects materials the singer-songwriter assembled in the early 1970s and sent to friends—just 100 copies, all signed. The release this year will include a new introduction by Mitchell and additional paintings not included in the original edition. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will also publish a signed, limited edition of "Morning Glory On the Vine."

Mitchell, who turned 75 last year, is known for such classic songs as "Big Yellow Taxi" and "Free Man in Paris" and such albums as "Blue" and "For the Roses."

Beyonce, Jay-Z to be honored at GLAAD Media Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce and Jay-Z are getting recognized for achievements outside of music: The power couple will be honored at the GLAAD Media Awards for accelerating LGBTQ acceptance.

GLAAD announced Monday that the Carters will receive its Vanguard Award at its 30th annual awards on March 28 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California. The award, previously given to Cher, Janet Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor and Antonio Banderas, honors "allies who have made a significant difference in promoting acceptance of LGBTQ people," GLAAD said.

GLAAD said Beyonce, who has a large gay fanbase, is being recognized for speaking out about marriage equality nationwide; for including members of the LBGTQ community in her music videos; and for dedicating one of her performances to the victims and survivors of the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting.

Jay-Z received the GLAAD Special Recognition Award last year for his song and video for "Smile," which featured his mother Gloria Carter, who is a lesbian. GLAAD said the rap icon is being honored because of his inclusion of LGBTQ artists in his work, from Janet Mock to James Baldwin, and for his support of marriage equality.

Mansion where Phil Spector killed actress is for sale

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP)—The hilltop Los Angeles-area mansion where music producer Phil Spector killed actress Lana Clarkson in 2003 is for sale at $5.5 million.

The Daily News reported Sunday that the walled French-style chateau known as "Pyrenees Castle" sits on 2.5 acres (1 hectare) in Alhambra.

Spector is serving a sentence of 19 years to life after his second-degree murder conviction in Clarkson's death. The 40-year-old actress—star of the 1985 cult film "Barbarian Queen"—was found shot to death in the foyer of the 8,700-square-foot (808-square-meter), nine-bedroom home.

Jurors were taken to the castle to inspect the scene of the crime during two trials. The first ended in a mistrial.

The 79-year-old Spector is known for his "Wall of Sound" recording technique developed in the 1960s.

Chance the Rapper marries longtime girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chance the Rapper tied the knot with his longtime girlfriend in a star-studded ceremony.

The Chicago-based rapper posted several photos of him and Kirsten Corley on his Instagram and Twitter accounts on Monday. He captioned his photos with him sporting a white tuxedo with black pants and her wearing a strapless white dress writing "The Bennetts."

Reports say the couple married in Newport Beach, California on Saturday.

The 25-year-old rapper, whose real name is Chancelor Jonathan Bennett, shared another photo of him with Kanye West, Dave Chappelle and Kirk Franklin.

Last week, Chance the Rapper posted a story on social media of how he met Corley when he was 9-years-old at his mother's office party. He called their marriage "destiny."

AP

In this Nov. 26, 2018 file photo, Chance the Rapper, right, and Kirsten Corley appear during the second half of an NBA basketball game between the Chicago Bulls and the San Antonio Spurs in Chicago.

Popular keepers collection covers many timeless topics

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about your Keepers booklet, the collection of your most popular essays, poems and letters. I would like to purchase a copy, but first, I have a question. Is there a particular favorite of yours in there?

BIG FAN IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

DEAR FAN: My Keepers booklet contains 72 column items that readers have told me they had read and reread until they were yellowed with age and falling apart. This booklet was created because of the high volume of requests from my readers for a collection of these items in one easy-to-use booklet. The subjects are diverse, covering a variety of topics, including parenting, children, aging, animals, forgiveness, etc. One poem in particular has always resonated with me. It is titled "The Time Is Now," and I find its message both poignant and meaningful. I hope you will agree.

THE TIME IS NOW (Author Unknown)
If you are ever going to love me,
Love me now, while I can know
The sweet and tender feelings
Which from true affection flow.
Love me now
While I am living.
Do not wait until I'm gone
And then have it chiseled in marble,
Sweet words on ice-cold stone.
If you have tender thoughts of me,
Please tell me now.
If you wait until I am sleeping,
Never to awaken,
There will be death between us
And I won't hear you then.
So, if you love me, even a little bit,
Let me know it while I am living
So I can treasure it.

Filled with clever observations, my Keepers booklet is both witty and philosophical. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. You will find it to be a quick and easy read, as well as an inexpensive gift for newly married couples, pet lovers, new parents, and anyone who is grieving the loss of a friend or loved one or recovering from an illness.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 40 years, are professionals and work together. He is cynical, sarcastic, resentful, dismissive and insulting. What should I do?

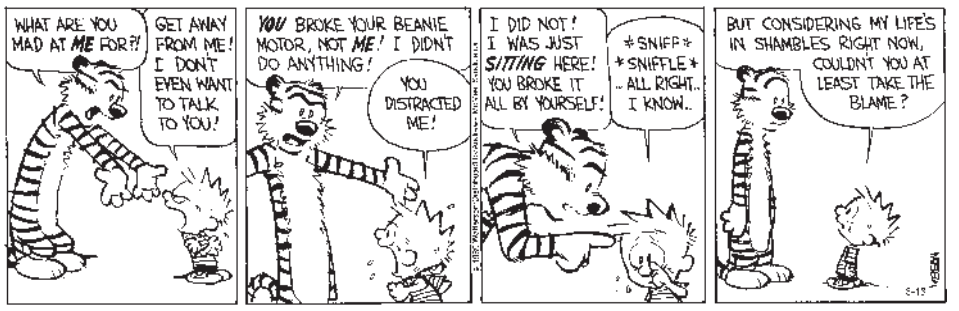
AT WIT'S END IN OREGON

DEAR A.W.E.: And you are only writing to me about this NOW? Having tolerated this kind of ill treatment for 40 years, I think the time has come to tune him out, don't you? Because your relationship may suffer from too much "togetherness," schedule time away from him—and the business—and do something pleasurable on your own whenever you can. And suggest he do the same because he may need a change of pace, too.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU MAD AT ME FOR?!
GET AWAY FROM ME! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
YOU BROKE YOUR BEANIE MOTOR, NOT ME! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
YOU DISTRACTED ME!
I DID NOT! I WAS JUST SITTING HERE! YOU BROKE IT ALL BY YOURSELF!
SNIFF *SNIFFLE* ..ALL RIGHT.. I KNOW..
BUT CONSIDERING MY LIFE'S IN SHAMBLES RIGHT NOW, COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST TAKE THE BLAME?

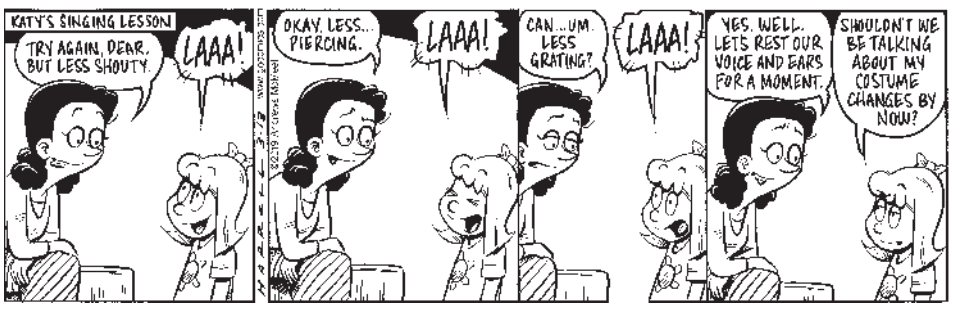
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"DEAR ASK A DOG, THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY IS REQUESTED FOR A DINNER PARTY...
"CAN WE EXPECT YOU AT SIX O'CLOCK?
"SIGNED, MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK J. FLEA"
JIM DAVIS 3-13

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KATY'S SINGING LESSON
TRY AGAIN, DEAR. BUT LESS SHOUTY.
LAAA!
OKAY. LESS... PIERCING.
LAAA!
CAN...UM. LESS GRATING?
LAAA!
YES. WELL. LETS REST OUR VOICE AND EARS FOR A MOMENT.
SHOULDN'T WE BE TALKING ABOUT MY COSTUME CHANGES BY NOW?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LISTEN, AN ASTEROID APPROACHING EARTH IS A CONCERN, SURE.
BUT THE CHANCES OF IT ACTUALLY HITTING ARE NOT GOOD, MUCH LESS HITTING CLOSE TO US.
I'D STILL FEEL BETTER IF WE BROUGHT THE LAWN FURNITURE IN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

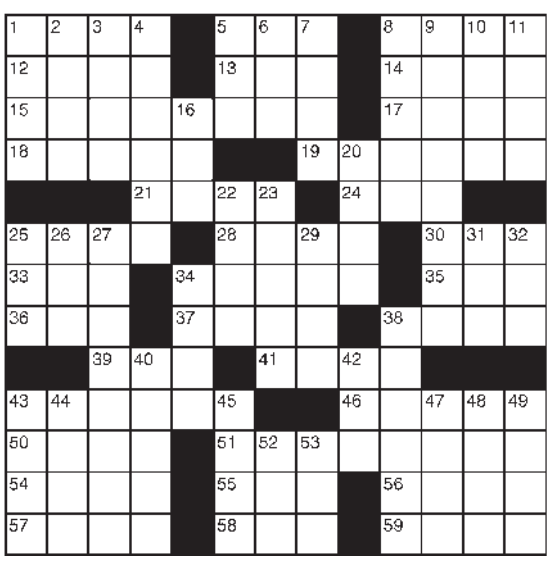
ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal city
5 Chatter
8 Pugilist's weapon
12 Regrets
13 Half of bi-
14 Bygone Peruvian
15 Diamond parts
17 Miles away
18 Thai or Korean
19 Oscar contenders
21 Leaves
24 Medit. nation
25 Buckeye State
28 Take five
30 Yoga pad
33 Mafia boss
34 Emulate Lincoln
35 Bedazzle
36 Dict. info
37 Nick and Nora's pet
38 Arm bone
39 Fireplace residue
41 Luminary
43 Charlton Heston film
46 Seraglio
50 Aware of
51 Endless time or space
54 Burning heap
55 Automobile
56 Sci-fi fleet
57 Declares
58 Lock opener
59 Faxed

DOWN
1 Met solo
2 Weaponry
3 Mortgage again, for short
4 Italian cheese
5 Actor Brynner
6 Moreover
7 Galileo's birthplace
8 Decrees
9 Casual
10 Cicatrix
11 Old salts
16 Rock's Brian
20 Refer to
22 Messes up
23 Plane assignments
25 Peculiar
26 Garden tool
27 Foot soldiers
29 Sports figure?
31 Bristle
32 Chai, e.g.
34 Diamond Head locale
38 Seventh planet
40 Loafers, e.g.
42 Sashimi fish
43 Conks on the head
44 "May It Be" singer
45 "Casablanca" cafe owner
47 Teeming
48 Harrow rival
49 Island in a computer game
52 Scot's refusal
53 Saute

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	I	F	F	■	L	A	S	■	B	A	R	B
E	S	A	U	■	E	L	K	■	A	M	O	H
H	A	R	D	C	O	P	Y	■	L	O	B	E
■	■	■	G	U	N	■	L	A	Z	I	E	F
S	A	T	E	D	■	P	I	N	A	■	■	■
E	R	O	S	■	H	A	N	D	C	A	R	T
T	C	N	■	C	A	S	E	S	■	C	E	C
H	A	I	R	C	U	T	S	■	E	L	A	N
■	■	■	E	I	N	E	■	B	L	U	R	T
G	O	T	H	I	C	■	S	U	B	■	■	■
R	H	E	A	■	H	O	I	C	C	O	C	A
O	N	E	S	■	E	V	E	■	W	A	R	M
G	O	S	H	■	S	A	P	■	S	W	A	P

Yesterday's answer 3-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Clayton, 59; Dana Delany, 63; William H. Macy, 69; Neil Sedaka, 80.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will play a role in the way things go this year. Take a step back and assess each situation that surfaces. Impulse and excess will be what holds you back. Forge ahead with determination, preparation and knowing what you want and how best to turn your idea into something tangible. Focus on progress, not emotional chaos. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 24, 31, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on being the best you can be. A compliment will be offered if you make a subtle change to the way you look. A generous offer should be carefully considered. Don't reveal personal information or secrets. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Start doing your own thing. Be unique and show that you are a self-starter and ready for whatever challenge comes your way. It will be your actions and responses that will help you advance, not copying someone else. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider what it is you want and how best to go about getting it. Don't rely on anyone offering unrealistic promises that are likely to lead to disappointment or regret. Follow your heart, and use your skills to excel. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your emotions locked up somewhere safe and out of the public eye. You'll accomplish far more if you are rational and approach your daily responsibilities with discipline and the intent to finish what you start. Look over contracts and agreements. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Easy does it. Slow down and consider the best route to take before you react. Inconsistent or unpredictable behavior will not help you keep the peace or get what you want. Someone is likely to embellish the facts. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Trust in what you know, not what someone tells you or tries to persuade you to do. A change should be carefully considered, especially if it will affect your health or disrupt a relationship with someone close to you. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be realistic about what you can do. Trust facts and use common sense when it comes to your health and well-being. Put your efforts into peace and harmony, not friction and chaos. Don't overreact or underestimate. Precision is key. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take a break and give yourself a chance to rejuvenate. Do your best to avoid getting into a scuffle with someone close to you. Listen attentively and offer suggestions that will appease you as well as others. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let your emotions take over. If someone says something you don't like, walk away. Trust in yourself, not information you get secondhand. Put more energy into looking your best and taking better care of your health. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make positive changes at home that will give you more time to relax or to work on something you enjoy. Spin an unexpected turn of events into an opportunity. Don't let someone from your past interfere in your personal life. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Personal improvements should be handled with care. You can get good results without going overboard or over the budget. An unexpected opportunity can turn into extra cash. Allocate your time and energy wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Your unique way of looking at things can be enlightening but also costly. Select your options carefully. Follow the most conservative path to eliminate getting in over your head emotionally, physically and financially. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, innovative and flirtatious. You are insightful and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	8	1	7	9			
	9		6			1		
4				8			2	
9				1			7	
8	7	1	4	6			9	
	2	5	9				8	
							4	
							1	
				4	8	5	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	6	2	9	4	8	7	3	1
9	3	4	7	1	6	8	5	2
7	8	1	2	3	5	4	6	9
4	1	5	6	2	3	9	7	8
8	7	9	1	5	4	3	2	6
6	2	3	8	7	9	5	1	4
1	5	8	4	6	7	2	9	3
3	9	6	5	8	2	1	4	7
2	4	7	3	9	1	6	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COLLEGES Solution: 7 letters

H	O	M	E	O	W	N	E	R	S	A	F	E	S	E
S	C	I	T	S	I	T	A	T	S	H	E	A	T	E
A	S	T	L	I	V	I	C	N	R	A	E	A	H	R
C	O	D	E	N	G	I	S	E	D	E	E	E	G	O
G	F	O	D	K	T	C	E	J	O	R	P	P	I	T
N	T	R	L	S	S	S	A	L	C	S	H	A	L	S
I	W	M	I	T	E	C	A	U	K	T	S	C	P	E
N	A	T	U	I	C	T	I	R	A	T	L	S	S	R
I	R	M	B	M	O	U	A	M	B	C	A	D	C	E
A	E	E	C	R	L	P	D	M	O	E	O	N	I	E
R	R	A	L	E	O	O	W	O	I	N	G	A	H	N
T	E	S	I	P	R	A	L	C	R	T	O	L	P	I
B	L	U	E	P	R	I	N	T	A	P	S	G	A	G
O	U	R	N	D	N	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	N
J	R	E	T	G	D	D	R	A	F	T	I	N	G	E

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Algebra, Artistic, Blueprint, Build, Civil, Class, Client, Code, Color, Computer, Cooling, Create, Design, Dorm, Drafting, Draw, Earn, Engineer, Ergonomics, Estimate, Goals, Graphics, Heat, Homeowners, Job, Landscape, Lights, Math, Measure, Paper, Parks, Permits, Product, Project, Restore, Ruler, Safe, Sketch, Software, Statistics, Training

Yesterday's Answer: English

Treasuries 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SURROGATES

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

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With valid driver's license.
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ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone.: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank of Guam, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION
vs.	NO.: 18-0019
Ephrem S. Taimanao and Lucia M. Taimanao, dba Joe and Sons Enterprises, Defendants.	NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Auction and Judicial Sale for the following real property described below is hereby **CANCELLED**. The auction scheduled for **April 5, 2019** at **10:30 a.m.** at the Rota Courthouse, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands will not go forward. No bids will be accepted nor considered.

The Auction and Judicial Sale of the following real property has been cancelled:

Lot No. 010 R 20, containing an of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 010 R 00 dated March 06, 1974 as Document No. 3438 at Land Registry, Saipan which was recorded on June 17, 1997 as Document No. 97-1467 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

SO NOTICED this 1st day of March, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres,
Auctioneer

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone.: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Bank of Guam, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION
vs.	NO.: 18-0018
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The Auction and Judicial Sale of the following real property has been cancelled:

Lot 345 R 200, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, the original of which was recorded 10 May 1984 as Document No. 84-751 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

SO NOTICED this 1st day of March, 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres,
Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2019

Opening date: March 04, 2019 Closing date: March 22, 2019

Positions:
(5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(3) Ports Police Officer-I (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, March 22, 2019**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

JAE HOON CORPORATON D.B.A. PACIFIC GROCERS
has openings for:

One (1) General Manager
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent); three (3) years of experience as a General Manager (for Wholesaler or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise), Operations Manager (for Wholesaler and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise), or Sales and Operations Manager (for Wholesaler and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise); six (6) months of experience using Microsoft Excel; and ability to read, write and speak Korean sufficiently to negotiate contracts and communicate with Korean speaking customers and negotiate and communicate with purchasing agent for merchandise in Korea.
Duties: Manages and directs the company's overall wholesale operations of company engaged in sales of food items and general merchandise. Works in conjunction with company's corporate officers in planning, formulating, and implementing periodic modifications to the company's annual financial goals, business objectives, marketing strategies, and merchandising policies in order to continue to maintain the company's market share and further expand the company's operations into new market areas. Establishes and maintains customer relationships with existing clients and negotiates sales contracts with Korean speaking customers and major customers. Negotiates terms and conditions for procurement of merchandise from purchasing agent in Korea and makes necessary payment and arrangements for transportation of merchandise to Guam. Manages and oversees the day-to-day sales, business, and administrative functions of the company. Manages and directs the company's marketing and sales activities, including implementation of the company's sales policies and marketing strategies; monitoring overall sales activities and conformance with sales parameters; implementing and overseeing pro-active and corrective actions to continue to grow the sales of the company's products, and overseeing contractual arrangements and import/export financing requirements. Reviews financial statements, sales reports and other performance data to measure productivity, goal achievement, identify deficiencies and implements corrective measures to ensure sales and profit targets are met while providing high-quality service to customers. Directs and oversees expansion into new product lines and market areas. Exercises discretionary authority over the company's operations. Prepares report to the corporate officers on company's sales, gross and net profit, operational efficiency, inventory and logistics, and makes recommendations for continuing to improving operational efficiency and financial outlook. Utilizes Microsoft Excel in performing job duties. Travels to MSA of Tinian, NMI and MSA of Rota, NMI every 3 to 4 months to assess and address any operational deficiencies with the company's wholesale operations.

One (1) Operations Manager
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent); four (4) years of experience as an Operations Manager (for Wholesale and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise) or General Manager (for Wholesale and/or Retailer of food items and/or general merchandise); six (6) months of experience using Microsoft Excel and six (6) months of experience using Sellwise or other inventory control software.
Duties: Assists General Manager in managing and directing the operations of wholesale company engaging in wholesaling of food items, general merchandise, and household goods. Assists General Manager and Executive Officers in planning, formulating and implementing periodic modifications to the company's business goals, marketing strategies, merchandising policies and operational procedure and establishing the operational budget. Manages and monitors sales and marketing activities and reviews financial statements, sales reports and other performance data to measure productivity, goal achievement, identify deficiencies and implements corrective measures to ensure sales and profit targets are met while providing high-quality service to customers. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory and projected volume of sales. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Monitors the company's operational efficiency and identifies and resolves operational deficiencies. Prepares staff work schedules and monitors staff performance. Prepares reports to General Manager and or corporate officers on company's sales, gross and net profit, operational efficiency, inventory and logistics, and makes recommendations for continuing to improving operational efficiency and financial outlook Exercises decision making authority over the operations and functions of company. Assumes the responsibilities of the General Manager in his absence.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum Qualifications: Three (3) years of experience as a bookkeeper or accountant for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and working knowledge of QuickBooks and SellWise software.
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Two (2) years of experience as a sales representative for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers.

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Chiefs, Mathieu agree to $42M, 3-year deal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs agreed to a $42 million, three-year deal with safety Tyrann Mathieu on Monday, continuing what is expected to be an aggressive offseason overhaul of their leaky defense.

Two people familiar with the deal confirmed the move. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot become official until Wednesday, when the new league year begins and free agents can sign contracts.

The 26-year-old Mathieu was selected by Arizona in the third round of the 2013 draft after a standout career at LSU. He showed glimpses of his ball-hawking, playmaking abilities with the Cardinals, earning a Pro Bowl selection during the 2015 season, but also dealt with his share of injuries.

He tore ligaments in his left knee in 2013 and right knee in late 2015.

Mathieu signed a $7 million deal with Houston last season and wound up starting all 16 games. He tied his career high with 89 tackles, added three sacks and had a pair of interceptions, and his versatility—able to cover like a cornerback and tackle like a safety—is clearly appealing.

"It's a passing league and everyone is trying to create mismatches in the secondary," Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said. "Just when you think you have enough corners you have to start moving them to safety, but I certainly think you are starting to see that trend of guys projecting corners to safeties and getting as many cover guys on the field as possible."

The money the Chiefs intend to give "the Honey Badger" is roughly what they freed up Sunday, when they released pass rusher Justin Houston after failing to drum up trade interest in him.

Houston was due $15.25 million this season and carried a salary cap hit of $21.1 million, and the decision to release him freed up about $14 million. That allowed the Chiefs to actively pursue Mathieu while still giving them enough salary cap space to address other areas of their defense.

AP

Former Houston Texans defensive back Tyrann Mathieu and the Kansas City Chiefs have agreed to a $42 million, three-year contract.

Foles to Jaguars, Collins to Redskins, Brown to Raiders

Meanwhile, Nick Foles is headed to Jacksonville, Landon Collins to Washington and Trent Brown to Oakland.

The big-money offers for NFL free agents began Monday, two days before they can sign contracts. Foles brings a Super Bowl pedigree to quarterbacking the Jaguars, and Brown has a championship ring as he moves to the Raiders' offensive line at left tackle. Safety Collins heads a few hours south from the New Jersey Meadowlands, where he could haunt his former team twice a year.

All of Monday's deals were confirmed by people with knowledge of the agreements who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because nothing can be official until Wednesday.

Foles has agreed to sign a four-year, $88 million contract with the Jaguars. The deal includes $50.125 million guaranteed and could be worth up to $102 million with incentives as he replaces Blake Bortles, who threw 103 touchdown passes in five seasons but was known more for inaccuracy and inconsistency that led to Jacksonville's offensive instability. Bortles is expected to be released this week before a $1 million roster bonus comes due Sunday.

The Redskins agreed to sign the 25-year-old Collins to a six-year, $84 million deal with $45 million guaranteed. He led the Giants with 96 tackles last season, and his 437 since entering the NFL in 2015 are the most among safeties in that time, but the Giants opted not to give him the franchise tag. Collins fills one of Washington's biggest needs on a defense that ranked 17th in the league last season.

Brown was a real find for New England before last season, and his payday will come with the Raiders after agreeing to a four-year deal worth $66 million. He will receive $36.75 million guaranteed in the richest contract ever for an offensive lineman.

According to Pro Football Focus, Raiders tackles allowed 30 sacks in pass protection last season, most in the NFL, while Brown gave up just three in 580 pass blocking snaps.

In other developments, DeSean Jackson is close to returning to Philadelphia. The Eagles have agreed to acquire the wide receiver from Tampa Bay along with a 2020 seventh-round draft pick for a sixth-round pick this year. The deal is contingent upon Jackson agreeing to a new contract. Five years ago, then-Eagles coach Chip Kelly released the three-time Pro Bowl pick following his best season.

The Eagles also have agreed on a three-year contract with defensive tackle Malik Jackson, who spent the past three seasons with the Jaguars after playing his first four with Denver, earning one Super Bowl ring. The 28-year-old Jackson had 18 sacks in Jacksonville, including 3½ last season.

In Houston, the Texans have signed free agents Angelo Blackson, DeAndre Carter and Joel Heath.

Houston also extended qualifying offers to nose tackle Brandon Dunn, kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn and outside linebacker Brennan Scarlett on Monday.

Blackson, a defensive end, has spent the last two seasons in Houston after playing for the Titans his first two seasons.

Osaka, Djokovic advance at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—Naomi Osaka rolled past Danielle Collins 6-4, 6-2 in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Monday night, keeping the world's No. 1 player on track to defend her title.

Novak Djokovic, the top-ranked men's player, held serve to win his opening game against Philipp Kohlschreiber in their night match. The German owned the advantage on his serve in the second game before rain began falling. The match was later suspended for the night.

Collins struggled with her serve throughout the match, committing seven double faults and connecting on just 47 percent of her first serves.

Osaka's first-serve percentage was 66 and she won 70 percent of her first-serve points.

"In the first set I was just really flat-footed. I didn't feel like I was moving well at all," Osaka said. "Then I just tried to really hype myself up. My mindset was just to keep trying to get my feet moving and stay pumped up and positive."

Osaka won her first career title at Indian Wells a year ago, propelling her to a career-best year in which she defeated Serena Williams for the U.S. Open title. She began this year winning the Australian Open and moving to the top of the rankings. After that triumph, she fired her coach and lost in the first round in Dubai before taking on a new coach, Jermaine Jenkins.

"It is different from last year, but I think I am getting used to it," Osaka said. "I have been practicing on Court 3 for the past few days, and I'm really grateful there is a lot of people that come out and watch. I try to sign all of the signatures."

Venus Williams is turning back her own clock, moving into the fourth round with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over qualifier Christina McHale.

Williams is seeking her 50th career WTA Tour title in the desert, where she has never won the event. And at 38, she's showing vintage form.

"I don't really play that often, so when I do, I need to play well," she said. "It's extra motivation for me to play just a little bit better out there."

Serena Williams, a two-time champion at Indian Wells, retired from her match on Sunday because of a viral illness.

Ranked 36th in the world, Venus Williams endured three sets in her first two matches. She rallied past Andrea Petkovic in the opening round and followed up by outlasting No. 3 seed Petra Kvitova in a third-set tiebreaker.

Kvitova had made the finals in two of her first three tournaments this year.

Williams, who made the semifinals in the desert last year, was playing McHale for the first time. Williams rallied from early breaks down in both sets to win.

"I never played her, so it's also you're out there learning," Williams said.

Fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova eased past qualifier Ysaline Bonaventure, 6-3, 6-2. No. 8 Angelique Kerber outlasted qualifier Natalia Vikhlyantseva, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 and No. 9 Aryna Sabalenka defeated 24th-seeded Lesia Tsurenko, 6-2, 7-5.

Two seeded women lost: No. 11 Anastasija Sevastova, who retired trailing 5-0 in the first set against No. 21 Anett Kontaveit, and No. 15 Julia Goerges, who lost to Mona Barthel, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4.

On the men's side, No. 3 Alexander Zverev lost to German countryman Jan-Lennard Struff, 6-3, 6-1.

Playing just his third tournament of the year, Zverev said he's been sick for a week.

"That hasn't changed, unfortunately," he said.

Dominic Thiem, seeded seventh, defeated No. 27 Gilles Simon, 6-3, 6-1. No. 13 Milos Raonic got a challenge from American qualifier Marcos Giron before winning, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Miomir Kecmanovic, a lucky loser from Serbia, got past No. 30 Laslo Djere, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Thunder beat Jazz to sweep season series

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook got into a heated verbal altercation with fans. The All-Star guard ended up having the last word on the court.

Westbrook had 23 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 98-89 victory over the Utah Jazz on Monday night. Dennis Schroder led the way with 24 points to help the Thunder sweep the season series.

An altercation between Westbrook and a pair of Jazz fans in the stands took place early in the second quarter after what he felt was a racial taunt. Westbrook was caught on video cursing at a fan and threatening him and his wife.

Westbrook expressed concern following the game at the verbal abuse he and teammates have received from fans on the road. He said he is done tolerating their disrespect.

"There's got to be something done," Westbrook said. "There's got to be some consequences for those type of people that come to the game just to say and do whatever they want to say. I don't think it's fair to the players."

Jazz security issued multiple warning cards and the team said in a postgame statement that it will be investigating the exchange between Westbrook and fans.

"Players and fans have a shared responsibility to create a safe and respectful environment," the Jazz statement said. "If it is determined that any fans violated the NBA Code of Conduct, appropriate action will be taken."

Paul George chipped in 14 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City. Steven Adams and Jerami Grant added 12 points apiece.

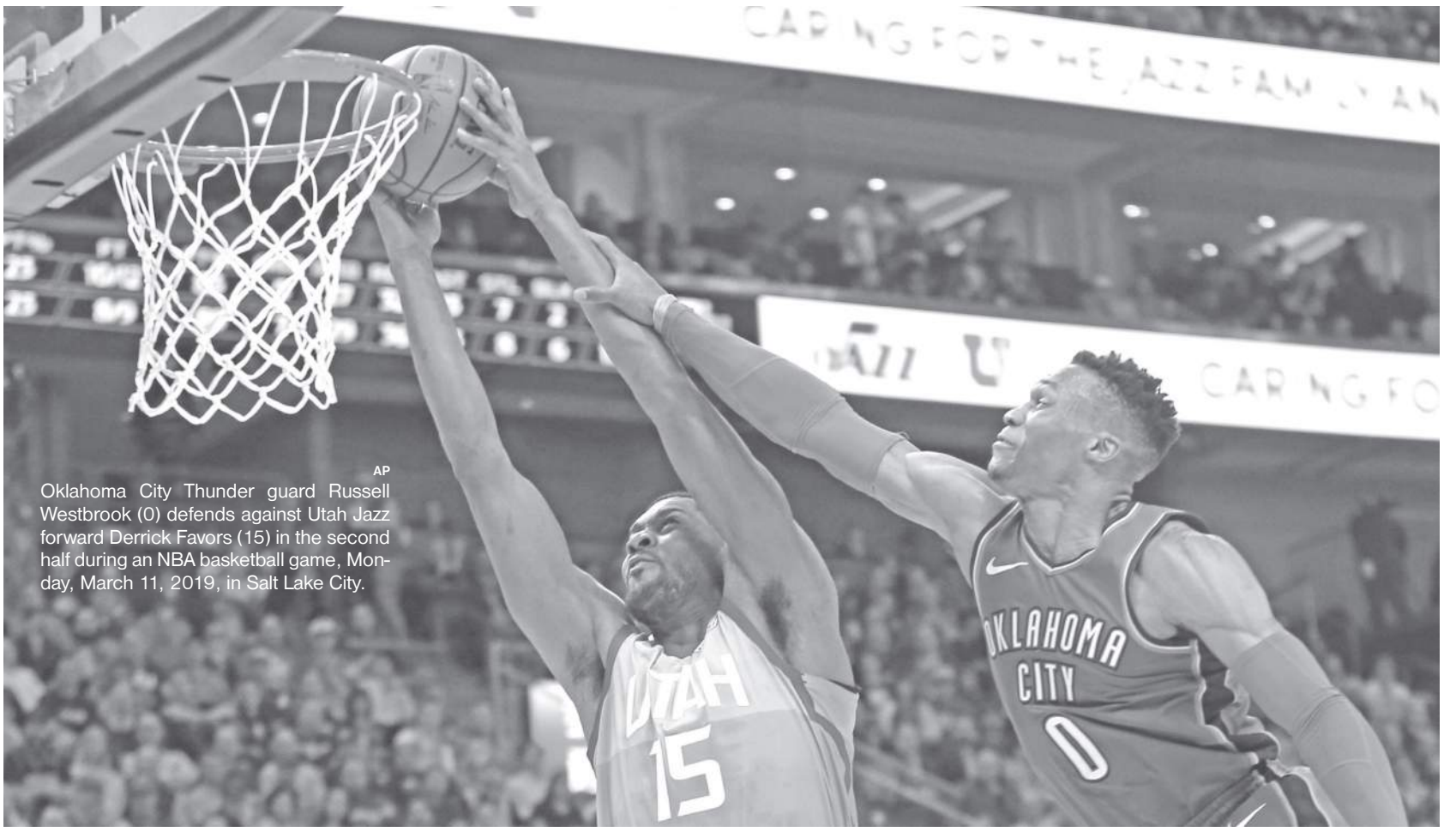
Westbrook took over after the Jazz rallied in the fourth quarter. Royce O'Neale cut the deficit to 89-83 on a pair of 3-pointers. Utah didn't get any closer. Westbrook scored back-to-back baskets as part of a 9-1 run that put the Thunder up 98-84 with 1:32 remaining.

"We did a great job of just competing," Schroder said. "Defensively and offensively. Just having fun, going back to our identity."

Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah, which shot just 36 percent from the field. O'Neale added 17 points while Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

The Jazz held an opponent under 100 points for the 19th time this season, but could never get on track offensively.

"We really worked our tails off defensively, particularly in the half-court," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "When we're not able to convert, it puts a lot of pressure on our defense. There are a number of things we can try and improve on, but I like how we competed on the defensive end. The offense will come."



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) defends against Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors (15) in the second half during an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 11, 2019, in Salt Lake City.

Rockets 118, Hornets 106

In Houston, James Harden was forced to carry an almost-impossible load on offense for big stretches of this season while many of the Rockets were out with injuries.

Now that the Rockets are at full strength, Harden is enjoying seeing his teammates shine on offense and help Houston make a late push for the top spot in the Western Conference.

Harden scored 28 points and Eric Gordon added 22 as the Rockets cruised to their season-high ninth straight win over the Charlotte Hornets.

"It was a total team effort," Harden said.

The Rockets, whose 11-14 start had them in the basement of the conference standings, now sit in third place, just 3 ½ games behind the Warriors, who they meet next.

A night after Gordon ended a streak of 43 straight games where Harden led the team in scoring, the Beard was Houston's top scorer again. But Gordon had another strong outing, making five 3-pointers for the third straight game and the fourth in five games.

Harden, who leads the NBA with 36.2 points a game, was asked if it's a relief to not have to carry the offense every night now that stars such as Clint Capela and Chris Paul have returned from extended absences.

Cavaliers 126, Raptors 101

In Cleveland, even with Kawhi Leonard back in the lineup, the best fight Toronto put up in was when Serge Ibaka threw a punch at Marquese Chriss.

Ibaka and Chriss were ejected for fighting during the Cavaliers' victory over the Raptors.

Leonard scored 25 points after sitting out Sunday's game, but the team with the league's second-best record trailed most of the way.

Collin Sexton scored 28 points and Kevin Love had 16 points and 18 rebounds for Cleveland, which dominated the second half and seemed to gain momentum after the fight with a second left in the third quarter.

Ibaka went to the floor after he and Chriss were battling for position under Cleveland's basket as the Raptors attempted a full-court pass that sailed out of bounds.

Ibaka shoved Chriss from behind and grabbed near his neck before throwing a punch. Chriss responded with a punch before players from both teams separated the two. Ibaka immediately headed for the locker room and both players were kicked out after the officials conferred.

Nets 103, Pistons 75

In New York, the Brooklyn Nets haven't been to the playoffs in four years. On Monday night, they looked ready to return.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 19 points and Brooklyn held the Detroit Pistons to the lowest shooting percentage in an NBA game in 3 1/2 years to move into sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

"Our guys attacked it," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "Sometimes when you're not used to these big games you might be on your heels a little bit."

The Nets (36-33) won their fourth straight and leapfrogged Detroit (34-32) into the No. 6 spot in their final game before leaving for a seven-game road trip.

Wizards 121, Kings 115

In Washington, throughout a turbulent season for the injury-plagued Wizards, All-Star guard Bradley Beal keeps evolving.

Beal shook off a poor first half to score 21 of his 27 points in the second half of their victory over the Sacramento Kings. He added nine rebounds and nine assists for the 11th-place Wizards, who moved within 3 1/2 games of the eighth Eastern Conference playoff spot currently held by idle Miami.

Yankees star, others hurt by MLB's broken salary system

TAMPA— Aaron Judge may be the biggest star on the largest stage in baseball and the New York Yankees' top box-office draw since Derek Jeter.

He also happens to be one of the team's lowest-paid players.

Judge will earn $684,300 this season, or about $300,000 less than Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw will earn for each start.

The 26-year-old Judge, who has been in the big leagues for two full seasons, understands how the system works. The Yankees have all the power the first three years he's in the big leagues, an independent salary arbitrator takes care of the next three years, and then he hits free agency.

It's why Tampa Bay Rays ace Blake Snell got a mere $15,500 raise—$10,000 of that built in with a league-wide increase in the minimum salary—to $573,700, even after winning last year's Cy Young award. It's why the New York Mets are paying closer Edwin Diaz just $607,425, after he led the majors in saves. It's why the Milwaukee Brewers renewed reliever Josh Hader at $687,600, despite his setting a major-league strikeout record for left-handed relievers.

The Yankees realize this is the final year Judge won't have any negotiating rights, and with his future earnings about to soar, they'd love to sign him to an extension that takes him through all of his arbitration years and delaying free agency.

At their price, of course.

It's up to Judge whether he wants to gamble on himself each year through arbitration, or take the safe route and sign a long-term extension that could sacrifice potential earnings.

Boston Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts, the reigning AL MVP, has opted to go year-by-year, and will earn $20 million this year, with two years left before his free agency.

St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Paul Goldschmidt went the safe route and signed a six-year, $32.5 million contract extension after his first year with Arizona, only to watch Chris Davis sign a seven-year, $161 million contract with Baltimore three years later.

If Judge is going to sign a long-term extension, he probably wants to follow the model set by Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout. He signed a six-year, $144.5 million extension on March 29, 2014 after two years and 70 days of major-league service. It covered all of his arbitration and three free-agent years. Judge has two years and 51 days of service time, and is eligible for arbitration after this season.

Giancarlo Stanton, who signed a 13-year, $325 million extension with the Miami Marlins after his fourth full season, said his deal couldn't have worked out any better. He got his money, an opt-out provision after the 2020 season, a full no-trade clause and is playing for the team he wants after vetoing trades to the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals.

FIFA study backs 48-team '22 WC, Qatar sharing

AP

In this Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018 file photo, men work on the construction site of the Ras Abu Aboud stadium, back dropped by the city skyline in Doha, Qatar. A FIFA feasibility study concluded the 2022 World Cup can expand to 48 teams by using at least one of Qatar's neighbors as an additional host, and found there is a low legal risk to changing the format and an additional $400 million in revenue could be generated.

LONDON (AP)—A FIFA feasibility study concluded the 2022 World Cup can expand to 48 teams by using at least one of Qatar's neighbors as an additional host, and found there is a low legal risk to changing the format and an additional $400 million in revenue could be generated.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the 81-page report on Monday that assesses the political, logistical and legal issues surrounding adding 16 teams — a significant change to the format more than eight years after Qatar won the hosting rights. The report was prepared by the governing body so its FIFA Council can agree in principle on expanding the tournament at a meeting in Miami on Friday. A final decision would come in June.

The study identified stadiums in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that could be used but said Qatar would have to approve which nations it would partner with.

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE severed economic, diplomatic and travel ties with Qatar in 2017, which prevents flights between the countries. The study says FIFA accepts that the ongoing political spat prevents their involvement in the tournament. The AP reported last week that FIFA was looking at Kuwait and Oman as options for games in 2022, given their neutrality in the Gulf diplomatic crisis.

"As it currently stands, the nature of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE's relations with Qatar is such that it would be challenging to organize a co-hosted tournament between Qatar and one or more of these countries," the feasibility study states.

"Candidate co-hosts would need to be regarded as sufficiently cooperative," the study adds. "Such co-hosts would not sanction or boycott economically or otherwise any other potential co-host country, including the main host, Qatar."

With logistics already challenged by the existing plan to play 64 games in eight stadiums spread over a 30-mile radius in Qatar, FIFA said two to four additional venues are required in the region "with one or more" nation.

FIFA stipulates that any additional hosts would have to supply government assurances, including on its human rights requirements.

"The involvement of additional neighboring host countries would require certain conditions to be met, in particular the consent of the relevant authorities in the main host country, Qatar," the FIFA report states. "Therefore, FIFA cannot conclusively stipulate which host countries would be part of a co-hosting arrangement with FIFA and Qatar at this moment."

The study highlights that venues with at least 40,000 seats — for games up to the quarterfinals — were demanded of 2026 World Cup bidders but doesn't come to a conclusion on minimum capacities for 2022. While eight potential additional stadiums are identified in the region in the FIFA study, only two in the UAE, one in Saudi Arabia and one in Kuwait meet the 2026 requirements.

"Whilst a 10-stadium tournament could be considered in the event that up to six matches are played per day during the group stage and matches are held in the same venue on consecutive days, 12 stadiums would still be preferable," the study says.

Since the contentious vote in 2010, which has been investigated for wrongdoing, FIFA has already had to change the schedule. The 2022 tournament was taken away from its usual June-July slot because of Qatar's searing summer heat, despite resistance from European leagues whose seasons will be disrupted.

Spreading hosting beyond Qatar would also change the nature of what has been promoted as a compact World Cup that doesn't require fans to take flights between matches.

The FIFA study found that, despite adding 16 games, the enlarged tournament could still be played in a 28-day window from Nov. 21-Dec. 18. FIFA said there would be "no major concessions to the sporting quality of the tournament" with expansion. While there were a maximum of four matches per day in the closing stages of the 2018 World Cup in Russia, FIFA said the 2022 tournament could feature six separate kickoff slots early in the tournament to cope with the additional teams.

"Implementing this format under the reduced tournament duration of 28 days would require some adjustments to aspects of the match schedule, such as the number of rest days for teams and venues," the FIFA study states. "However, these adjustments are consistent with the principles observed at confederation competitions or in the top leagues around the world. Furthermore, based on its analysis, FIFA believes that the challenges can be sufficiently mitigated, including by increasing the number of venues and matches per day."

KNIGHTS

From Page 28

still gunning for their first win of the season, got to as close as 4 points late in the fourth quarter, 45-49, but could not overhaul the deficit, as the Knights employed a full court defense in the ensuing plays to force turnovers. MCS 1 then turned those errors into easy baskets and ran the clock in the last minute to keep its lead and take the win.

Earlier in the opening canto, the Knights had the game firmly in their control, as their stifling defense prevented Agape from finding their footing. MCS 2's airtight defense in the first quarter made the Torchbearers cough up the bank multiple times, which led to the Knights; 10 fastbreak points in that period alone. James San Nicholas and Vince Salvador capitalized on these fastbreak plays and netted 8 and 6 points, respectively, to hand MCS 2 a 21-10 advantage.

The Knights kept the double-digit lead in the second frame, as Salvador continued to hit his target and other players stepped in. Salvador pumped in 7 points, while Christopher Mafnas, Richard Steele, and Jun Hyuk also made baskets to help push the Knights' advantage to 34-18, heading into the halftime break.

With the Knights holding a comfortable 16-point lead, MCS coach John Hernandez rested his starters for much of the third canto. The Torchbearers took advantage of the opportunity and rallied together to score 18 points in the third—their biggest output in a quarter. Hansen Li and Ray Qi earned 4 points apiece, while Kobe Fu, Isaiah He, and Joel Du also contributed to Agape 2's cause, as they brought the deficit down to single digit, 36-43, entering the last quarter.

After losing the double-figure advantage, Knights deployed their starters in the fourth quarter to prevent Agape 2 from completing its comeback bid.

Salvador led all scorers with his 18 points, while San Nicolas added 11, and Jeremiah Diaz and team captain Merrick Toves chipped in 7 apiece.

With the victory, MCS 2 improved its record to 2-7, while ACS 2 absorbed its 10th loss.

Meanwhile, in a doubleheader today at the Koblerville Gymnasium, Saipan Southern High School will duel ACS 2 at 3:30pm, while MCS 2 will match up against GCA. Over at the Kagman Community Center, the Ayuyus will take on Agape 1at 3:30pm.

MCS 2 57—Salvador 18, San Nicolas 11, Diaz 7, Toves 7, Hyuk 6, Mafnas 2, Sablan 2.

ACS 2 53—Qi 16, Dai 9, Li 9, Fu 5, David 4, Du 2, He 2, Shon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 34-18, 43-36, 57-53.

HELP

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also not on weightlifters' side, as the Pacific Games are just a few months away (July 7 to 20) and athletes' names must be submitted by May. The CNMI Weighlifting Team has four members (three men and one women)

However, despite the financial challenges and the uncertainty on their participation in the Pacific Games, Davis said their athletes continue to train.

"We have a team than can win medals," said the weightlifting group head.

In last year's Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, the CNMI weightlifters won 15 medals (six golds)—the most by any group from Team Marianas. In 2017, during the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu, Angel San Nicolas brought home a bronze—the lone medal the CNMI won in the event.

San Nicolas is back for national team duties along with Micro Games gold medalist Antonette Labausa, 2018 NMSA Male Athlete of the Year Rodrigo Ada, and Dave Barnes Jr.

The group, through the leadership of Davis, has launched another fundraising bid in their last-ditch effort to make it to Samoa. The weightlifters are asking for help through the gofundme.com. To help or for more information, check gofundme.com and look for CNMI To Samoa 2019 or click www.gofundme.com/samoa-2019.

As of yesterday, over $400 has been raised out of the $30,000 goal. Funds that will be raised will also help the team compete in the Oceania Championships.

MP

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teamed up in towing TanHoldings to its second victory in as many games. Angeles hit back-to-back goals in the first half (31st and 40th minute) to lift TanHoldings to a 2-1 halftime lead.

Esalan then picked up where Angeles left off, as the TanHoldings forward also made two consecutive goals (68th and 75th minute) to give their team more breathing room, while Capayas closed out for the squad in the 78th.

Ian Karl Maniago tallied the lone goal for Kanoa when he found the back of the net in the 30th minute.

MP United 4, Matansa 0

In the other match last Friday at the NMISTC, MP United shut down Matansa.

Sunjoon Tenorio and Skyler Poon joined forces in handing MP United its second win that put the team in a tie for first-place with TanHoldings. The two MP United players alternately scored for their squad with Tenorio getting his first in the 10th minute and Poon in the 50th minute. Then in the 61st minute, Tenorio logged his second goal, while Poon duplicated that feat two minutes later.

Pro rugby player holds clinics in schools

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

World Cup veteran Mahonri Schwalger of Samoa is on Saipan and has started a series of rugby clinics in various schools to help Northern Marianas Rugby Union boost its grassroots program.

"I knew that rugby was introduced here before and then people stopped playing. Now, it's being revived and the best way to grow the sport is through schools. You start at the grassroots level," said Schwalger, who played in pro leagues in New Zealand and Europe (Celtic League and Guinness Premiership) and suited up for the Samoa National Team on many occasions in both the Pacific Games and World Cup.

The 40-year-old athlete held clinics at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Tanapag Middle School last Monday and was scheduled to have similar event at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School yesterday. He introduced GTC and Tanapag students to flag rugby to teach them the basics of the sport.

"We did a lot of passing and running with the ball. They are super excited to play and love the contact part of the sport. That's a good sign because you can tell that they are having fun," the Apia native said.

NMRU president Stanley Iakopo and vice president Ed Arriola assisted Schwalger in conducting the clinics and the group thanked the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Division of Youth Services, and the three schools for allowing them to visit and introduce the sport to the students.

"Rugby would like to join the community in its efforts to keep our kids active through sports," said Iakopo, whose group is holding a flag rugby tournament for elementary and middle school students this Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Former rugby pro player Mahonri Schwalger (back row, wearing cap) poses with Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students after conducting a clinic last Monday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scholarship, contract opportunities

Schwalger retired in 2014 after playing rugby for 15 years and is now focusing on training and recruiting players through his Rugby Academy Samoa.

"We have around 150 players, with 35 of them in the elite level. We also have U13, U16, and other age group players in the pool," said the former Samoa World Cup team captain.

"We also recruit players in Fiji, Tonga, and other regions and hoping to do the same in the CNMI," Schwalger.

The Super Rugby (premier league in New Zealand) veteran saw a lot of potential talents in the Commonwealth and if they will continue to work hard, play, and improve, his academy will be there to help CNMI players compete in high-level tournaments.

"I could hook them up with schools or clubs off-island. Not everyone will have the chance to play for the national team and turn pro right away. So, in Samoa, what we do is help talented players get scholarships from universities and contracts with clubs overseas," said Schwalger, whose ties with international teams and colleges made it possible for other Pacific players to get opportunities to play.

Samoa A and U20 player Iosefatu Mareko was an alumnus of Schwalger's academy and the former is currently in Japan on a four-year collegiate scholarship. Other scholarship and contract offers come from New Zealand and Europe, particularly from France.

"We are very fortunate that a legendary player like Schwalger visited us to share his skills and experience to our players. His academy will open a pathway to our players, who one day may want to play in college and in the pro ranks," Iakopo said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mahonri Schwalger, standing sixth left, and Northern Marianas Rugby Union official Ed Arriola, standing fourth left, join Tanapag Middle School students for a photo after holding a clinic last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rugby Academy Samoa executive director Mahonri Schwalger gets ready to demonstrate drills to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students.

Former rugby pro player Mahonri Schwalger, right, and Northern Marianas Rugby Union president Stanley Iakopo visit the *Saipan Tribune* office yesterday to discuss their collaboration in promoting a grassroots program in the CNMI.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Disability Sports Festival kicks off on Tinian

The 2nd Annual CNMI Disability Sports Festival will begin on March 30 on Tinian.

To change the format of last year's event, the sports fest will be held on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan, instead of just on Saipan. Organizers are looking to increase participation in the event by holding the festival on each island.

The Rota Disability Sports Festival will be held on April 6, while and Saipan will have its turn on April 13. There are five sports for this year's event.

One of them is adaptive softball with the sport's rules and play modified to accommodate the needs of players with disabilities. Then there's boccia, a game of strategy and accuracy played on a flat surface for people with limited motor skills or those using wheelchairs. Cornhole will also be played and it is a lawn game where players throw beanbags at a raised platform to score points. Also on the list is dodgeball, a game in which players try to avoid being eliminated by dodging balls tossed by the other team. Completing the event is kickball, a game that resembles softball and is played with an inflated ball that is kicked rather than hit with a bat.

The Disability Sports Festival Committee is inviting all interested and eligible athletes to join these exciting events.

For more information about the 2nd Annual CNMI Disability Sports Festival or to register to participate, please contact the following representatives: Tinian's Joseph Hocog at the Tinian Mayor's Office (433-1800), Rota's Aubrey Hocog at the Rota Mayor's Office (532-9451), and Saipan NMPASI at 235-7273 ***(PR).***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players and volunteers in last year's CNMI Disability Sports Festival participate in one of the activities at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Chiefs, Mathieu agree to $42M, 3-year deal

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Thunder beat Jazz to sweep season series

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Weightlifting team needs help

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Weightlifting Team's participation in the 2019 Pacific Games is in jeopardy as the group is having a hard time raising funds for the competition.

"I am not sure. Fundraising is tough," CNMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis said when asked for updates on their preparations for the quadrennial event in Apia, Samoa during the Northern Marianas Sports Association monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMSA has estimated the cost to send a delegate to Samoa at $3,000 and it could only provide $600 financial assistance to each participant. NMSA, during the same meeting, also disclosed that it has already reached out to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to seek financial aid and has yet to get a response. NMSA president Michael White, in previous meetings with teams that have committed to send athletes and officials to the Pacific Games, has reiterated the urgency of fundraising early for the competition, as there is no guarantee that government help will be available.

The weightlifting group and other federations have been fundraising for their teams, but some are still having problems in finding money to cover the costs of the trip to Samoa, especially after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Commonwealth. Time is

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This photo of the CNMI Weightlifting Team is posted on the gofundme.com website, as the group aims to seek financial assistance for its participation in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

MP United hammers Matansa

Knights survive Torchbearers

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mount Carmel School 2 withstood Agape Christian School 2's comeback attempt to pull off a 57-53 victory in the lone game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the latter's court in Gualo Rai.

The Torchbearers, who are

See KNIGHTS on Page 26

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Mt. Carmel School 2's Merrick Toves, right, blocks Agape Christian School 2's Hansen Li during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Maury Zon Tybaco, right, bends to kick the ball during the second half of their girls U19 futsal match against Matansa FC in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club pounced on Matansa FC, 21-1, during the curtain-raiser in the girls U19 futsal game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Gillian Villagomez started MP United's string of goals with her back-to-back shots recorded in the third and fourth minute. Guine Borja and Britany Wally also had two goals each late in the first half that ended with MP United holding a commanding 11-0 advantage. Katrina Costales, Julianne Hall, Maury Zon Tybaco, Grace Choi, and Lilian Podziewski also contributed to MP United's lopsided win over Matansa.

Matansa drew its lone goal from Jannah Casarino in the 27th minute.

In the other game in the division, Kanoa FC topped TanHoldings FC, 8-3.

Paulyn Joyce starred anew in Kanoa's easy victory after drilling four goals and she also got a lot of help from her teammates. Joyce scored in the 18th, 31st, 43rd, and 44th minute, while Sharmaine Francisco added a brace after hitting the board in the 16th and 41th. Khristelle Itaas and Ruschell Valino delivered one goal apiece for Kanoa with the former finding her target in the 21st and the latter in the 48th.

Judy Ann Andebor had two goals for TanHoldings, while Jenny Ann Capayas made one. Abdebor recorded her pair of goals in the 14th and 34th minute, while Capayas scored in the 48th.

BOYS U18
TanHoldings 5, Kanoa 1

TanHoldings also dueled Kanoa in the boys U18 division and this time the former won during their game last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Aloyzeus Angeles, Mark Esalan, and Jonathan Capayas

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